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Missouri (R) — A teacher in a village in northern Missouri was shot and killed by a fellow teacher in a schoolyard.

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Lebanese leader seeks accord

ROME (R) — A prominent Lebanese Christian leader Wednesday called on the Muslim majority in Lebanon to seek peace through dialogue with the Christians. Patriarch Maronite V Hakkim, spiritual head of the Melkite Christians in Lebanon, said if politicians were unable to find a solution, the religious heads of the Melkite, Maronite, Orthodox and Armenian Christians and the Sunni, Shi'ite Muslims and the Druze would have to find one. He told a news conference: "I want to make an appeal to the Muslims to respond to a call made a week ago by heads of all the Christian churches... for a meeting with the Muslim religious leaders on the future of Lebanon. I make this appeal so hope for co-existence between Christians and Muslims may not be lost definitively."

Pope seeks Reagan's influence for truce, page 2

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز - المجلة السياسية المستقلة العربية - مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الرأي"



Arafat confers with N. Yemeni leader

MANAMA (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman (PLO) Yasser Arafat arrived Wednesday in the North Yemen capital of Sana'a and conferred with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Gulf News Agency reported. Mr. Arafat had left Kuwait earlier in the day after a three-day visit during which he conferred with the leaders of the Gulf state on the Palestinian situation and prospects of a political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. While in Kuwait, Mr. Arafat also probed the financial status of the Palestinian National Fund. Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Arafat conferred with Soviet ambassador to Kuwait Pogost Acopov. The PLO chairman was in North Yemen late December after his withdrawal with the bulk of 4,000 loyalists from northern Lebanon.

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House committees meet Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Legal Committee will hold a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of its Chairman Abdul Wahab Al Majali to study a number of temporary laws referred to the committee by the House during its last session. The Financial and Economic Committee of the House will also hold a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of its Chairman Khaled Al Haj Hassan to study a number of temporary laws referred to it by the House.

Salem in Riyadh

BAHRAIN (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem arrived in Riyadh Wednesday for talks with Saudi leaders on the latest flare-up in factional violence in Lebanon. Informed sources said, the sources, contacted in the Saudi capital by telephone, had no details of his programme. But with King Fahd in Spain on a private visit, they said he was likely to have talks with Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

U.N. concerned over Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's spokesman said Tuesday that the secretary-general had been in touch with his representative in Beirut "with a view to giving all possible emergency assistance in the present tragic situation." The spokesman, Francois Giuliani, told reporters also that Mr. Perez de Cuellar was following developments in Lebanon "with deep anxiety" and hoped that violence would cease "so that the search for a basis for peace and stability can be resumed as soon as possible."

Israeli army kills Jew by mistake

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli soldiers killed a Jewish worker and wounded his colleague when they fired on them Wednesday, thinking they were Arab commandos, an army spokesman said. The incident took place near Lahia on the occupied Gaza Strip. The workers belonged to patrols of the nature preservation authority, whose job is to supervise agricultural land used for grazing. The spokesman said soldiers on a routine patrol heard shots from a field. They rushed to the scene, believing they were dealing with a commando band and opened fire. In fact, the workers were firing at wild dogs to drive them away.

Iraq, Turkey to build gas pipeline

ANKARA (R) — Iraq and Turkey Wednesday agreed to build a pipeline to carry three million tonnes a year of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Iraq's northern oilfields to the Mediterranean, Turkish officials said. The pipeline would run parallel to an existing oil pipeline from the Kirkuk oilfields to the Turkish port of Yumurtalik, which was recently upgraded to a capacity of 900,000 barrels a day from 700,000, the officials said. The accord followed a meeting of the two countries' joint economic commission.

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MNF begins withdrawal as Beirut battles escalate

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Troops of the Multi-National Force (MNF) began withdrawing Wednesday following U.S. President Ronald Reagan's announcement that the U.S. Marines in the force would be redeployed in warships off Lebanon as heavy battles flared between the two halves of the city and U.S. battleship New Jersey blasted positions in the surrounding hills.

Britain was the first of the four nations in the Beirut peace force to pull out its troops, withdrawing its 110 men from a converted apartment building in no-man's land and lifting them by helicopter to a ship offshore.

It followed Mr. Reagan's announcement that the 1,600 U.S. Marines would be similarly redeployed over the next month.

Italy said it was following their lead while maintaining a limited presence around Palestinian refugee camps until other guarantees could be found for them.

France said it would not be rushed into making a decision but made clear it regarded replacement of its troops by a United Nations force as necessary and urgent.

In what U.S. officials said was a demonstration to Syria that the U.S. commitment to President Amin Gemayel remained firm, the New Jersey fired 30 rounds at targets said by Washington to be controlled by Syria.

It was the first time the battleship had used its 16-inch guns for almost two months. It also provoked new fears among Mr. Reagan's critics that by giving American ships and aircraft free rein to pound Syrian-controlled positions shelling Beirut he may be leading the United States into an unresolvable military conflict.

New Lebanon strategy raises U.S. fears

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan's critics Wednesday voiced new fears about the potential dangers of his decision to move U.S. Marines offshore while using planes and naval guns against Syrian-controlled positions shelling Beirut.

Mr. Reagan's announcement Tuesday that the 1,600 Marines would be transferred to U.S. warships was praised by Republicans and the opposition Democrats, who have been demanding prompt withdrawal of the troops.

But his plan to permit U.S. warships and planes to hit any units attacking Beirut from Syrian-held positions aroused new concern that Washington may be drawn into a military conflict it cannot resolve.

Fierce fighting over the past few days has left the U.S.-supported Lebanese army weakened by desertions and much of Beirut under the control of Syrian-backed forces, who are demanding the resignation of President Amin Gemayel.

"I am concerned that we are now trying to resuscitate a corpse," Democratic Congressman Stephen Solarz said.

Mr. Solarz, a senior member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and a leader of the drive to bring the Marines home, said he had been briefed on Mr. Reagan's decision by top administration officials.

"Three days ago the White House was accusing those of us

Israeli cabinet deliberates over Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's cabinet met in special secret session Wednesday to discuss the U.S. decision to move Marines from Beirut to offshore warships, as opposition pressure increased for rapid Israeli troop withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir convened his cabinet under a special security law which makes it a crime to reveal the meeting's proceedings.

Government officials said U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis informed Mr. Shamir Tuesday of President Reagan's decision on the Marines and he was meeting

The militias seized control of west Beirut, their traditional stronghold, during 17 hours of fighting on Monday and Tuesday. The 6th Army Brigade, to which most of the several thousand government soldiers in west Beirut belonged, either refused to fight or sided with the opposition.

Fear, uncertainty prevail

An air of fear and uncertainty prevailed in the commercial heart of the Beirut. Most shops and businesses remained shut for a third day.

Despite a call Tuesday by Shi'ite "Amal" militia leader Nabih Berri for them to leave the streets, carloads of youths brandishing automatic rifles and grenade launchers raced through the city.

Falangist radio said Syrian artillery in the mountains east of the capital resumed shelling east Beirut Wednesday morning. It later reported that rockets and shells were crashing around Hadath and nearby districts at midday Wednesday.

The mainly Druze opposition Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) "Voice of the Mountain" radio said parts of the Druze city of Alep and nearby villages were shelled Tuesday night, causing heavy damage but no casualties.

The respected newspaper An Nahar said "armed elements" Tuesday released all 186 prisoners at Al Zaref prison in the centre of west Beirut.

Many Beirut residents said Wednesday they were frightened to leave their homes because of the presence of many unidentified militiamen in the streets.

British pullout

The 115 British troops serving with MNF abandoned their base

in the Christian-populated suburb of Hadath, eight kilometres southeast of Beirut, at midmorning. They drove in a convoy that carried all their equipment to the port of Jounieh, 20 kilometres north of the capital, where they were flown by helicopter to the 23,000-ton royal fleet auxiliary ship Reliant about 20 kilometres offshore.

Some 50 American contractors affiliated with the U.S. embassy were evacuated to U.S. warships off Beirut around midday from the seafloor 'Ein Meisseh corniche area of the British and U.S. embassies.

British government sources in London said the decision to pull out the British contingent was taken by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and senior ministers Tuesday, before President Reagan announced that the U.S. Marines would be withdrawn.

A statement from Mr. Thatcher's office said the British pullout was ordered "in the light of the deteriorating security situation in Beirut and the particularly exposed position of the headquarters building."

Italian decision

Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini ordered Italy's military chiefs of staff Wednesday to take "all necessary steps" for a gradual withdrawal of Italian peacekeeping troops from Beirut, the Defence Ministry said in Rome.

However, a brief statement from the ministry did not give details of the withdrawal or say how many — if any — of the 1,400 Italians now in Beirut would stay behind in Lebanon.

(Continued on page 3)
U.S. evacuees arrive in Cyprus; Top Soviet official to visit Syria; Arab press predicts Lebanon partition, page 2

Ministry regulates election campaigns

AMMAN (Petra) — In view of the coming by-elections, Jordanians are not allowed to carry fire arms and to use loudspeakers or sound horns in election campaigns, in accordance with instructions issued Wednesday by the Ministry of Interior.

A statement issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar said: "For security considerations and in view of the coming elections civilians are not to carry fire arms, whether licensed or not, and campaigners for the election should refrain from using loudspeakers or horns and microphones. The measure takes effect immediately until further notice."

In his statement, the minister drew the attention of the public to the following articles of the Election Law issued in 1960:

— Article 59 states that election campaign can be conducted through meetings, speeches, distributing pamphlets and posters. — Article 60 states that election meetings are totally forbidden inside places of worship, educational institutions and public buildings and those under government control.

— Article 61 states that the public is not allowed to use the official state insignia on pamphlets and notices or any other writings and pictures intended to promote election candidates.

— Article 62 states following: — A candidate should not be accompanied by more than five people in his campaign tour.

— Candidates should not use in their speeches, pamphlets or posters any abuse, instigation or offence directed against his rivals. — Any action which arouses hostile feeling among tribes, families or sects is banned.

Mr. Arar passed his directives to various governors and district governors to enforce them and to take necessary measures against violators.



United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to France Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Mubarak lies in a pool of blood Wednesday after being shot in Paris by an unidentified gunman (AP wirephoto)

UAE envoy killed in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — A lone gunman fatally wounded the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) ambassador to France outside the diplomat's Paris home Wednesday morning, police said.

They said the ambassador, Khalifa Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Mubarak, was shot in the back of the head as he left his apartment building at 22 Avenue Charles Floquet, only a few hundred metres from the Eiffel Tower. A spokesman for Paris' Saint Anne Hospital said the diplomat died about four hours later.

Police said the gunman, who fired one shot at the ambassador, escaped on foot. No group had claimed responsibility for the attack by Wednesday afternoon.

On Tuesday, several unidentified gunmen assassinated exiled Iranian Gen. Gholam Ove-

Regent conveys sympathy, condemns killing

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday sent a cable to Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) expressing his sympathy on the death of Sheikh Khalifa Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Mubarak, UAE's ambassador in Paris who was assassinated Wednesday by an unidentified gunman. In his cable, Prince Hassan expressed his deep grief and condemnation of the terrorist act, which he said was "alien to human and Arab and Islamic values and serves only the enemies of the Arab Nation."

He and his brother on a Paris street. Both were shot in the head.

Eyewitnesses said the gunman fired five shots from a 7.65 mm pistol at the ambassador.

Police said that as the ambassador lay in a pool of blood on the pavement his chauffeur chased the gunman, who they said was of Mediterranean appearance, dressed in sports shoes and a blue jacket.

(Continued on page 3)

Mubarak, Hassan II meet in private

RABAT, Morocco (Agencies) — King Hassan II of Morocco and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt conferred privately for several hours Wednesday on the second day of the Egyptian leader's official visit to Morocco.

Moroccan and Egyptian officials declined to disclose details of the talks, which they said dealt with "Arab and Islamic problems." King Hassan is the current chairman of the Arab League and the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

As chairman of last month's Islamic summit meeting in Casablanca, he played a leading role in putting an end to the OIC's four-year-old boycott of Egypt, imposed following Egypt's sep-

arate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

There has been widespread unofficial speculation that the Islamic group's action would lead to efforts to re-admit Egypt to the Arab League. Many moderate Arab governments and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat reportedly favour such a move, but a militant group led by Syria and Libya is vehemently opposed to it.

Following the 1978 Camp David agreements, a majority of Arab nations broke all relations with Egypt and the Arab League headquarters was moved from Cairo to Tunis.

Mr. Mubarak's visit was the first

time an Egyptian president has been received in any of the Arab nations that broke with Egypt over Camp David — except for Mr. Mubarak's attendance at the 1982 funeral of Saudi Arabia's King Khalid.

Mr. Mubarak's programme in Rabat has not been published but he is expected to spend most of the time in private talks with King Hassan.

He is due to meet President Francois Mitterrand in Paris on Saturday and President Reagan in Washington next week.

Egypt to attend APU meeting; Numeiri says Israeli embassy will not remain long in Cairo, page 2

Challenger crew begin work on film...

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Challenger's astronauts went before the camera Wednesday to star in a panoramic movie being shot by colleague "Cecil B." McNair as their scheduled call for rest and experiments before the next tetherless space walk.

The space travellers, after five bitter-sweet, busy days in orbit, welcomed some relaxation before winding down the journey with more outside tests of their jetpack on Thursday, a news conference from space Friday and the shuttle's first landing in Florida on Saturday.

Wednesday's filming sessions will be of activities inside the cabin. Some of the most spectacular film was made Tuesday by a second Cinema-360 camera, located in the open cargo bay and

operated remotely from inside the shuttle.

That captured man's first free flight in space, as astronauts Bruce McCandless and Robert Stewart unhooked their lifelines and manoeuvred away from Challenger, propelled by a \$10 million jet-powered backpack.

Mr. McCandless flew the jet-pack for 90 minutes, calling it a "nice flying machine." Mr. Stewart glided around for 65 minutes and said it operated "beautifully."

Mr. McCandless and Mr. Stewart are scheduled to be back outside Thursday for five more hours.

The backpack will be used for a satellite repair mission planned on the next shuttle flight in April.

NASA anxious to fix satellite problems, page 8

...as Soyuz heads for space rendezvous

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union on Wednesday launched its second manned space shot in 6½ months, rocketing three cosmonauts toward the orbiting Salyut-7 space station in a Soyuz spacecraft.

The official news agency TASS said the Soyuz T-10 spacecraft was launched at 3:07 p.m. Moscow time (12:07 GMT).

The state-run television interrupted regular programming to show film of the twilight launching from the central Asian base of Baikonur.

TASS said the mission was commanded by veteran cosmonaut Colonel Leonid Kizim, 42. The flight engineer aboard Soyuz-10 is Vladimir Solov'yev, 37, and the third member of the

flight is cosmonaut researcher Oleg Atkov, 34.

TASS said the cosmonauts "are feeling fine" and that the Soyuz spacecraft was operating "normally."

The agency said the crew planned to dock with the orbiting Salyut-7 space station, where a two-man crew spent 150 days starting last May 27. That crew, Vladimir Lyakhov and Alexander Alexandrov, returned to Earth Nov. 23 after a mission marred by a fuel leak and a launching-pad accident.

The Soyuz T-10 mission is Col. Kizim's second space shot. On Nov. 27, 1980, he commanded the Soyuz T-3 spacecraft and spent 12 days aboard Salyut-6, predecessor of the current Soviet space station

with Oleg Makarov and Gennady Strekalov.

The other two men aboard Soyuz T-10 are making their first voyage into outer space.

In a broadcast before the launching was announced, Radio Moscow indicated the cosmonauts would spend at least two months on Salyut-7. The radio noted that a Soviet-Indian flight is planned for mid-April and added that there would be Soviet cosmonauts aboard the space station to greet the Indians.

The Soviet space programme in recent years has focused on testing human endurance in outer space with the avowed goal of one day establishing long-term space stations with crews permanently on board.

Pope seeks Reagan's influence to bring about Lebanon ceasefire

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II said Wednesday he has made an appeal to U.S. President Ronald Reagan to use his influence to bring about an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon.

Describing himself as "deeply disturbed" over the bloodshed in Lebanon, the Pope disclosed at his general audience that he had sent a personal message to the American president Tuesday evening. He said he also sent a message to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and planned to do the same with other heads of state involved

with the Lebanese question. "Deeply disturbed by so much suffering of the Lebanese people, and concerned for the survival of their country, Tuesday evening I sent a personal message to the president of the United States of America to communicate my worries and ask him to use his influence above all to put a stop to

the bombings and the killings and to promote an immediate ceasefire that would permit the search for a just political solution," the Pope said, speaking in Italian. "I now turn to you and the whole church with a pressing invitation for prayer," said the Pope, speaking to a crowd of 10,000 people gathered in the Paul VI audience hall.

The pontiff has made repeated appeals for the warring factions to reach a peaceful solution. He told the crowd Wednesday: "May the suffering of the Leb-

anese of which the Pope and all men of goodwill cannot but feel part of, become an invocation to the God of mercy for the salvation of so many people involved in the conflict, in particular for all the victims of these horrors.

"I renew the request I made last Sunday, to all the leaders of the fighting factions, that they might come to an immediate ceasefire that would permit a loyal dialogue with the desire to come to a just and effective and stable political solution."

Egypt to attend Arab parliamentary meeting

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Egypt will attend a conference of Arab parliamentarians in Tunisia next May, a spokesman of the sponsoring organization said Tuesday.

The conference, May 8-11, is sponsored by the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. The Arab League is an advisory body to the conference.

Egypt's participation, with 22 other delegations from Arab nations, is seen as a further sign of its re-integration into the Arab community.

Arab press predicts Lebanon partition

BAHRAIN (R) — Newspapers in the Arab World Wednesday predicted Lebanon was heading for partition and called on the Lebanese people to restore reason and solve their own problems.

A former Lebanese minister, Ghassan Tuelin, writing in the Beirut daily Al Nahar said: "We should stop where we are in the hope that sense will return... we should stop immediately before we all die or go mad."

But Lebanon's Communist daily Al Nida, attacking President Amin Gemayel and the country's Falangists said: "Beirut and its southern suburbs have risen up to say there is no scope for ruling Lebanon by a fascist minority resorting to all means to tighten its domination."

In Saudi Arabia the daily Al Riyadh said in an editorial developments in Lebanon were taking a turn fraught with great danger, including the possible partitioning of the country. Another Saudi daily, Al Bilad

warned against a possible political and military collapse in Lebanon and called on the country's leaders to intensify efforts to find a solution.

Egypt's Al Gomhouriya said: "The situation in Lebanon has collapsed because temporary solutions are no longer useful. A radical solution for the crisis must be found by all Lebanon's forces free from any foreign interference."

Jordan's three Arabic daily newspapers agreed that any solution for the Lebanese problem could only be found by the Lebanese themselves. (See Arabic press editorials, page 4)

Gulf newspapers also predicted a partitioning of Lebanon, with Kuwait's Al Qabas saying Lebanon was speedily moving in that direction.

"The past years of war have completed the basic stage (for such a partition), which is a review of the Lebanese map and the redistribution of the people in the light of their religious aff-

iliations," it said. Another Kuwaiti newspaper, Al Ra'i Al Aam, said it was now up to the Falangists to see reason and recognise that Lebanon cannot be Falangist-dominated.

Qatar's English-language daily Gulf Times said Lebanon's constitution "urgently needs reviewing, imposed as it was in the first place, by foreign powers that were in control before the country achieved independence."

"If the threat of Balkanisation, now hanging over Lebanon, becomes a reality the only beneficiary will be the Israelis, the only losers the Lebanese — all Lebanese."

It called for withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon and said the country must be left to the Lebanese.

In the United Arab Emirates, the Dubai daily Al Bayan said there was no alternative to a direct dialogue to solve the crisis, adding intercommunal fighting benefited no-one.

U.S. evacuees arrive in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — A group of 34 American embassy employees and dependents evacuated from embattled Beirut overnight arrived at this southern Cyprus Port Wednesday.

"It was pretty damn scary. The last couple of days were horrible," said one of the evacuees, Jinny Stewart, wife of the embassy press attache John Stewart.

She added that many of the embassy staff had been holding out in the basements of apartment buildings because of the fighting. The group of 22 non-essential

embassy officials and 17 dependents were airlifted from the embassy building on the Beirut waterfront Tuesday evening by helicopters that took them aboard the USS Maintown. This is one of the Sixth Fleet ships stationed off the Lebanese coast.

The Maintown sailed to Larnaca 220 kilometres east of Beirut during the night. The evacuees were helicoptered from the ship, which anchored offshore, to Larnaca Airport early in the morning.

A State Department spokesman in Washington stated

Tuesday that the American diplomats and their families were evacuated from Beirut as a "prudent response" to the fighting there.

"All the dependents are out now," said Mrs. Stewart.

J. Daniel Howard, the press officer of the U.S. embassy in Cyprus, said the evacuees will be staying at island hotels for the time being. "Some of the dependents will stay on the island, some of the embassy staff may be sent to other posts later," he added.

Numeiri says Israeli embassy in Cairo will not last long

RIYADH (AP) — Sudanese President Jafar Numeiri has told the weekly magazine Al Yamama that he does not expect the Israeli embassy in Cairo to continue operation for long, while an active Arab presence in the Egyptian capital would be capable of "isolating Israel there."

He also urged the Arab states to fight alongside Iraq in the 41-month-old war with Iran. Text of the interview to be published by the magazine Wednesday, was made available to the

Associated Press Tuesday. Mr. Numeiri was quoted as calling for Egypt's return to the Arab fold after its reinstatement in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). Egypt was expelled from the Arab League after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

The Islamic summit conference last month in Casablanca, re-seated Egypt in the OIC.

Sudan, Somalia and Oman were the three Arab countries that have refused to rupture ties with Cairo.

Top Kremlin official to visit Syria as Lebanon crisis deepens

By Mark Wood
Reuter

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union Wednesday announced that a senior Kremlin official would visit Syria next week and Western diplomats said Moscow appeared to be stepping up its role in the Middle East conflict as the Beirut crisis deepens.

The official news agency TASS said Geidar Aliyev, a leading member of the ruling politburo, would travel to Damascus for a "brief working visit." It gave no other details.

But diplomats said they had no doubt the trip was linked to the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. They said it would take on added significance after President Reagan's decision to move U.S. Marines from Beirut to warships offshore.

"The Russians have been sta-

nding on the sidelines waiting for the Americans to get themselves bogged right down in Lebanon. It now looks as if they have decided the time is ripe to take a higher profile," one Western diplomat said.

Mr. Aliyev, 60, who is also a first deputy prime minister, will be the first senior Kremlin official to visit Syria for four years.

Arab diplomatic sources said discussions on his visit began two weeks ago, but they added that the decision to go ahead with it now appeared to be linked to developments in Lebanon.

Syria is Moscow's main ally in the Middle East. The Kremlin has kept Damascus well supplied with modern weaponry and given support to its actions in Lebanon.

Last month the Soviet leadership also signalled its backing for Lebanese anti-government militia groups by inviting pre-

dominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt to Moscow.

The Soviet Union has consistently attacked the role of the U.S. force in Lebanon and says the government of President Amin Gemayel is hostage to U.S. and Israeli policies in the region.

Moscow's own strategy calls for Lebanon to be dealt with as part of an all-round Middle East peace settlement which would be guaranteed and policed by the major powers.

This would give the Soviet Union the kind of direct role in the region which Washington has been trying to prevent.

"Moscow's policy has been to let the Americans discredit themselves and then come forward as peace brokers offering an alternative solution. Mr. Aliyev's visit suggests they may now be moving to that stage," one dip-

lomat said.

Further signs that this may be the case came from the United Nations Tuesday, where Western diplomats said the Soviet Union had indicated it might be ready to drop its objections to a U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

They said Moscow was insisting as a condition that the U.S. recognise it had an interest in the area.

Diplomats in Moscow said the Soviet Union would be very pleased with developments in Lebanon and would now regard Syria's strengthened position there as a lever with which to increase its own Middle East role.

"Moscow will view the pullout of the Marines as a big defeat for the Americans and will now be hoping Mr. Gemayel's administration will be replaced by a regime obedient to Syria," one diplomat commented.

The Soviet Union has called for Lebanon to be free of all U.S. and Israeli influence. Its plans for a general Middle East settlement include establishment of a Palestinian state and Arab recognition of Israel within its 1967 borders.

Diplomats said Mr. Aliyev could be expected to offer advice and encouragement to Syria during his stay and might make a major Soviet policy speech on the Middle East.

The visit to Lebanon also appeared to underscore Mr. Aliyev's growing importance in the Kremlin hierarchy.

Appointed a full politburo member shortly after Yuri Andropov became Soviet leader in November 1982, the former Azerbaijani party chief has since emerged as one of the top policy-makers in the administration.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
16:30 Koran
16:45 Cartoons
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:00 Childhood
18:50 Programmes Review
19:00 Local Competition Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Arabic Series
22:30 Arabic Play
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Play Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Benson
21:10 Drama: St. Elsewhere
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: To Hell and Back
23:00 Audie Murphy, Marshall Thompson

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& parity on 95.9 KHz, SW
07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Summary
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Summary
13:30 News Bulletin
14:00 News Bulletin
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Finance Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 24 Hours News: News Summary 07:30 Peaches' Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 14 Hours News Summary 09:30 Country Style 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The Painter of Signs 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Today 11:35 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Edward Edgar: The Making of a Composer 12:15 Monitor 12:30 Yes Minister 12:40 World News: News World Brief: Country News 01:15 12:25 The Week in Wales 12:30 The Reith Lectures 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: World Brief: Country News 01:15 U.S. 15:45 The Pleasure's Yours 16:30 Discovery 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 The Reith Lectures 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Outlook: News Summary 21:43 Stock Market Report: Look Ahead 21:45 Report on Religion 22:30 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 A Jolly Good Show 23:15 Ulster Newsletter 23:20 In the Meantime 23:30 Business Matters 24:00 World News 00:09 The World Today 00:25 The Week in Wales 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News: Country News 01:15 U.S. 01:45 VOA Programme 01:50 America's Choice 02:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; analysis, viewpoints, features 17:10 News 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Now Music USA 21:00 Newsline

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 95.65, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz
06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; analysis, viewpoints, features 17:10 News 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Now Music USA 21:00 Newsline

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
16:00 Koran
16:30 Cartoons
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:00 Childhood
18:50 Programmes Review
19:00 Local Competition Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Arabic Series
22:30 Arabic Play
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Play Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme (feature film)
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Benson
21:10 Drama: St. Elsewhere
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: To Hell and Back
23:00 Audie Murphy, Marshall Thompson

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& parity on 95.9 KHz, SW
07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Summary
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Bulletin
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Just A Minute
15:00 News Summary
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Summary
17:30 News Summary
18:00 News Summary
18:30 News Summary
19:00 News Summary
19:30 News Summary
20:00 News Summary
20:30 News Summary
21:00 News Summary
21:30 News Summary
22:00 News Summary
22:30 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
23:30 News Summary
24:00 Close Down

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Orientalist" original paintings at the Alia Art Gallery.
* "Pablo Picasso" paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

FILMS

* "Borsalino et Cie" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.
* "Airplane" starts at the American Centre at 7:00 on Thursday.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 44371
American Centre Library Tel. 41529
British Council Tel. 36147-R
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009
Goethe Institute Tel. 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 42503
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 24149
Tajik Cultural Centre Tel. 39777
Hayat Arts Centre Tel. 665195
Hussein Youth City Tel. 667181
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 664251
Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 36111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 443555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists and a collection of paintings by 19th Century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabel Loubdah. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m.

ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (EA)
07:05 Agaba (RJ)
07:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:30 Jeddah (RJ)
07:45 Dhabran (RJ)
07:45 Kuwait (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:00 Dhabran (RJ)
08:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
08:20 Laraca (CY)
08:40 Dhabran, Riyadh (Saudi)
14:30 Tripoli, Laraca (LN)
14:40 Kuwait (KAC)
15:30 Baghdad (IA)
15:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TA)
15:55 London (RJ)
16:00 Agaba (RJ)
17:05 Athens (RJ)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 Amsterdam (KLM)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad (IA)
00:50 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Loubdah, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabel Loubdah, 37440.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 41559.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 71351.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian Apostolic Church (inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

04:58 Fajr
06:24 (Sunrise) Suhrur
11:50 Dhuhr
14:53 'Asr
17:16 Maghreb
18:42 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 33250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (EA)
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17:05 Athens (RJ)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 Amsterdam (KLM)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad (IA)
00:50 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

DEPARTURES

05:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
06:40 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:50 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:05 Cairo (EA)
10:00 Damascus, Athens, Geneva, (SR)
10:45 Athens (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:25 Laraca (CY)
11:40 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
11:45 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhabran (Saudi)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Agaba (RJ)
15:30 Laraca, Tripoli (LN)
15:40 Kuwait (KAC)
16:30 Baghdad (IA)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police 192, 211, 11, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 56390-1
Electric Power Co. 35381-2
Municipal water service 71125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Akilieh Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Malhas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 445845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Muhsen Hospital 66727-9
The Islamic, Al-Shifa 665292
Al-Ahli, Al-Shifa 77101-3
Italian, Al-Muhsen 77101-3
U.K. Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marjeh 91611

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy, with westerly winds. A slight increase in temperature is expected. A depression centred in Cyprus may possibly affect Jordan. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C

Amman 3/11
Agaba 10/22
Dahran 2/15
Jordan Valley 8/20
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 87 per cent, Agaba 26 per cent.

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple (Double Red) 450/400
Apple (Golden) 450/400
Apple (Stark) 450/400
Apple (Smith) 450/400
Apple (local) 220/180
Banana 280/240
Banana (Mukammal) 240/210
Beans 320/280
Cabbage 70/50
Carrot 150/120
Cauliflower (white) 70/50
Cucumber (large) 180/140
Cucumber (small) 280/220
Dates 180/150
Eggplant (large) 90/60
Eggplant (small) 140/100
Figs 400/300

GRAPES

Grapes (white) 700/600
Grapes (black) 700/600
Grapefruit 90/70
Lemon 130/100
Marrow (large) 100/70
Marrow (small) 160/140
Mello 160/140
Olives 350/200
Onion (dry) 160/140
Onion (wet) 150/100
Oranges (Abu Surra) 240/180
Oranges (Shamouni) 180/120
Pears 800/750
Pepper (sweet) 400/350
Pepper (hot green) 220/180
Potatoes 220/180

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18:10 Amsterdam (KLM)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad

NEWS IN BRIEF

Supply team returns from Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Supply Mohammed Al-Sagaf and his accompanying delegation returned to Amman Tuesday after a visit to Switzerland and West Germany which lasted several days. During the visit, Mr. Sagaf held talks with officials of both countries on the expansion of flour mill at Al-Juwaydeh south of here, and a number of the ministry's other projects.

Arar makes administrative changes

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Suleiman Arar Wednesday announced a number of changes in the ministry's administrative department. Under the changes District Governor Abdul Qader Hababeh was appointed director of the administrative affairs, District Governor Salameh Suheim became director of the citizenship and alien department, District Governor Faisal Khasawneh became director of the traffic and licensing department, District Governor Khalil Khreisat became director of the public safety department, Mr. Mohammad Idwan was appointed as public affairs director and Mr. Hayya Rawashdeh became the ministry's chief clerk.

Nominations invited for Arar literary prize

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Writers Society has asked all official, popular and cultural bodies in Jordan and abroad to put forward their nominations for the Arar literary award.

The society's request comes on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the death of the famous Jordanian poet, Mustafa Wahbi Al-Tal popularly known as Arar. The Arar award, in addition to a JD 500 prize is granted by an ad hoc committee, grouping leading Jordanian and Arab writers, to the person who presents the most distinguished literary production of the year in Jordan. Priority is given to poetry writing, particularly that reflecting suffering and hopes of the Arab people.

In 1981, Dr. Walid Saif won the Arar award, while Mr. Salem Al Nahas won it in 1982. The famous Palestinian poet Fadwa Touqan won the prize in the year 1983.



A sudden burst of heavy rain makes roads in Amman very hazardous (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Rains cause flooding but no casualties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heavy rain and mist over the past two days flooded streets, made visibility poor in some regions but resulted in no casualties, according to a spokesman for the Public Security Department here Wednesday.

He said that the department had received no reports of any accidents and that all main roads in the Kingdom had remained open throughout the storms, which were caused by a depression centred over Cyprus.

In Irbid, the municipality announced the formation of teams to handle all emergencies resulting from the continuous rain fall and snow.

Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tub-eishat said that the teams had been provided with equipment and vehicles to carry out rescue operations and remove obstacles from the streets.

The teams will work 24 hours a day, he said, until the repair work is completed.

Also an emergency office has been opened to receive complaint and requests for help from the public.

A spokesman for the Meteorological Department told the Jordan Times that the effects of the depression had ended and that Thursday will be partly cloudy but with an expected rise in temperature. Winds, the spokesman added, will be westerly and moderate.

However, he said, another depression is moving closer to Jordan from southern Greece. This depression is expected to affect the country Thursday evening, the spokesman said.

German banker talks on world economy.

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The "general outlook of the world's economic future" was the title of a lecture delivered by honorary president of the West German Deutsche Bank, Mr. Hermann Abs, Wednesday here at the faculty of arts auditorium in the University of Jordan.

Mr. Abs talked about interest rates, creditors and debtor countries, banks, currencies, loans, deficits, inflation, the industrial and political economy and other economic issues facing the world. Mr. Abs gave examples and figures on various economic issues. At the lecture, Mr. Abs said he is optimistic about the world's economic future, despite the difficulties facing it.

He said that all countries should

try to be less dependent on each other countries. Mr. Abs reviewed countries in debt and their economic situation and said that in order for those countries to pay their debts, creditors should accept those countries exports of goods as payments.

He added that "we should not be worried about the debtors but rather about creditors." The main creditors in the world, Mr. Abs said, are the U.S. banks who need to make concessions to their debtors in relation to final settlements in order to help Third World countries fulfil their commitments.

Mr. Abs added that the creditors should deal with each country in debt separately and under separate agreements in accordance with each country's economic situation. The U.S., Mr. Abs said, is second to none in their \$200 billion annual budget deficit which has resulted in high rates of interest.

There will not be a quick reduction of interest rates in the U.S., he added.

Mr. Abs went on to brief the audience about the world currency system, inflation rates, consumer spending and ways to improve the world economy. Attending the lecture were a number of Jordanian and foreign economists, businessmen and others interested in the subjects discussed at the lecture.

Anani, envoys review bilateral trade links

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Dr. Jawad Al-Anani, conferred at his office Wednesday with British Ambassador to Jordan Alan Urwick on bilateral economic relations and ways for promoting and developing them.

Also discussed during the meeting was the possibility of increased British investment in Jordan as well as encouraging tourism to Jordan in Britain.

The minister also received Wednesday Moroccan Amb-

assador in Amman Abdul Latif Laraki and reviewed with him relations between Jordan and Morocco.

The work of the Jordanian-Moroccan joint committee for marketing phosphates was also discussed.

The committee, formed under the economic co-operation agreement in 1978, also discussed the possibility of holding an exhibition of Jordanian industries in Morocco.

Kana'an to establish welfare research centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kana'an announced Wednesday that his ministry has taken steps to establish a national documentation centre for collecting information in co-operation with the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives. The centre's brief will be to conduct research into social problems in the country, the minister said.

Speaking during a visit to the Young Women's Muslim Association, Mr. Kana'an said that the centre will be expected to make plans and draw up programmes for social welfare, which in turn will be presented to the ministry and voluntary and charitable societies in the country.

The minister voiced appreciation for the centre's services and efforts aimed at caring for mentally retarded children and for the centre's endeavours to develop the children's skills.

Y.U. makes offer to failed students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Of the 470 students previously announced to have been dismissed from Yarmouk University, only 70 will now have their names struck off. The rest change to other fields of specialisations within the institution, according to the university president, Dr. Adnan Badran.

He said the measure was taken in line with the university's regulations which the students will be aware of. "We want our graduates to be of a good academic standard so as to represent this institution in the various fields in which they will be employed," Dr. Badran said.

The students who were expelled had received written warnings for their failure to keep up with the required standard and for not obtaining overall averages of 70 per cent in their grades, Dr. Badran said.

Following the announcement of the measure against the students, Dr. Badran met their representatives and heard their views in the presence of several deans and university professors.

He said the university will allow each of the students concerned a

chance to raise his or her averages by continuing as private students for one more term.

If they prove to be able to achieve good results, then the university will accept them back as full fledged students, Dr. Badran said.

However, he added, the university's curricula will remain unchanged having been amended as recently as 1982 following thorough studies and consultations with the higher educational board.

Later in a meeting with 10 of the dismissed students who gathered outside the president's office, we were told that the students failed, because the academic plan contains many "mistakes". They called on the president to bear part of the responsibility for their poor performances.

Dentists board to help West Bank members

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Dentists Association board Wednesday discussed a working paper submitted to it by the head of the association's branch in the occupied West Bank, Dr. Mohammad Nasraddin.

The paper dealt with health insurance and social security provisions for West Bank dentists. The association's secretary, Dr. Anas Al-Sahli, said the board has agreed to pay money requested by the association's committees in the West Bank.

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Proudly presents the best of international films, one that broke all the records everywhere. Simultaneously showing in Amman - London - America



"An Officer And A Gentleman"

In Colour

Starring: Debra Winger and Richard Gere

The hall is equipped with the most modern audio-visual and sound effects systems (Dolby Stereo) — it is air-conditioned and has a car-park.

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 p.m. A late evening show Thursdays & Saturdays at 10:15 p.m.

Strategy raises fears

(Continued from page 1)

"Second, when the government of Lebanon is able to reconstitute itself into a broadly-based representative government, we will vigorously accelerate the training, equipping and support of the Lebanese armed forces, on whom the primary responsibility rests for maintaining stability in Lebanon. We will speed up delivery of equipment; we will improve the flow of information to help counter hostile bombardments; and we will intensify training in counter terrorism to help the Lebanese confront the terrorist threat that poses such a danger to Lebanon, to Americans in Lebanon, and indeed, to peace in the Middle East.

Third, in conjunction with these steps, I have asked Secretary of Defence Weinberger to present to me a plan for redeployment of the Marines from Beirut airport to their ships offshore. This redeployment will begin shortly and will proceed in stages. U.S. military personnel will remain on the ground in Lebanon for training and equipping the Lebanese army and protecting the remaining personnel. These are conditional functions that U.S. personnel perform in many friendly countries. Our naval and marine forces offshore will stand ready, as before, to provide support for the protection of American and other personnel in Lebanon and thereby help ensure security in the Beirut area as I have desired.

"These measures, I believe, will strengthen our ability to do the job we set out to do — and to sustain our efforts over the long term. They are consistent with the compromise joint resolution worked out last October with the Congress with respect to our participation in the Multi-National Force."

MNF begins withdrawal

(Continued from page 1)

The statement noted that the government's plan, as presented by Mr. Spadolini, for a gradual withdrawal already had received senate committee approval earlier in the day.

"Spadolini... has ordered the military chiefs of staff to take all necessary steps, co-ordinated between land and sea forces, in the framework of maximum security, for the gradual withdrawal of our military units from Beirut," the statement said.

It added that there was a need at the same time "to guarantee the protection of the Palestinian refugee camps." Those camps are now being protected by some of the Italian soldiers.

France cautious

France indicated Wednesday it would not be rushed into withdrawing its troops from Beirut, but that it was urgently seeking their replacement by a United Nations force.

Defence Minister Charles Hernu, speaking to reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting, said no decision had been taken to evacuate the contingent, originally 2,000-strong.

In reply to questions, Mr. Hernu said there was no change in the position of the French troops, the biggest element of the four-nation force.

But presidential spokesman Max Gallo made it clear that Paris regarded their replacement by a U.N. force as necessary and urgent.

How it all started

The latest fighting in Lebanon that has claimed more than 200 lives began last Wednesday with a statement by President Gemayel's

chief opponent, PSP leader Walid Junblatt, that a new round of civil war was "inescapable".

The same day, the killing of a 22-year-old member of Amal by a sniper and a widespread rumour that the Lebanese army was planning to storm into Beirut's Shi'ite-populated southern suburbs contributed to the developing crisis.

The decisive battle is coming. It is inescapable. There is no way to avoid it," Mr. Junblatt announced in a speech inaugurating his radio station "Voice of the Mountain."

Later that day, a Christian shot and killed a militiaman from Amal. The dead man's colleagues mistook the militiaman for an army soldier and retaliated by firing a rocket-propelled grenade into a Lebanese army jeep killing an officer and his driver.

The army fired back and a full-scale battle erupted. Within hours, Shi'ite militiamen were advancing on three key Lebanese army positions controlling the southern entrance to Beirut.

On Thursday, army troops tried to regain their lost positions and sent dozens of shells and rockets crashing into residential areas in the Shi'ite slums, killing at least nine people and wounding 17.

The fighting continued unabated for the next two days with hundreds of shells and rockets falling on the southern suburbs and on predominantly Christian neighbourhoods in the east.

On Saturday, Amal leader, Berri called for the resignation of Prime Minister Shafiq Al-Wazzan's government and asked Muslim officers and soldiers to disobey their commanders and refrain from fighting fellow Muslims.

On Sunday, Mr. Wazzan resigned. Army soldiers and officers began defecting in west Beirut and some turned over their positions

along the Beirut airport highway to Amal militiamen. The mainly Christian rightist forces and Lebanese army guns blasted the southern suburbs while Syrian-backed PSP gunners shelled residential areas in east Beirut.

Mr. Gemayel accepted the prime minister's resignation. In a nation-wide speech late at night, Mr. Gemayel invited Christian and Muslim leaders to reconciliation talks in Geneva on Feb. 27, called for an immediate ceasefire on all fronts, and hinted he was willing to negotiate all demands by the opposition.

But the fighting intensified, although it was still confined to the Galerie Semaan gateway in southern Beirut.

On Monday morning people in other areas of Beirut, left for work or shopping, ignoring the distant sound of artillery.

But during the morning, militiamen suddenly began appearing in west Beirut's streets, and fire-fighters broke out in half a dozen neighbourhoods.

As blasts of artillery, rockets and mortars began echoing in the city, residents scrambled to basements and shelters for refuge.

The army ordered an immediate curfew, threatening to shoot violators on sight. But many soldiers defected or threw down their weapons and by late afternoon there were few government troops to enforce the curfew.

The bombardment finally slackened Tuesday morning, though isolated shells still exploded and sporadic gunfire could be heard. The Shi'ite Muslims and PSP militiamen had taken control of west Beirut.

UAE envoy shot dead

(Continued from page 1)

reassured the United Arab Emirates that everything possible would be done to find and punish those responsible.

One eyewitness to Wednesday's attack said: "I heard three shots, a gap, and then two more. The man, who was of Mediterranean appearance, ran off. The ambassador was lying in the gutter. He had been shot in the left temple and was losing a lot of blood."

"He was in a coma when they took him away," he added. The ambassador's chauffeur, Ravidan Nair, 40, said Mr. Mubarak was not accompanied by a bodyguard. The chauffeur gave the AP the following account of the shooting:

"Before getting into the car he asked me to go back to the building and find his wife's chauffeur. At that moment, a man who looked like an Arab type, about 35 years old, pulled a small pistol from his pocket, walked up behind him, and fired one shot point blank before running in the direction of the Seire (river)."

"I chased him and he shot at me while running, but he missed. He then disappeared around a corner. So I went back to the ambassador who was lying in a pool of blood."

In Abu Dhabi the UAE government denounced the assassination, describing the killing as a disgraceful and criminal act.

Mr. Mubarak, 36, is survived by a wife and four children. A statement issued by the office of UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan said the crime was "a mark of disgrace on the foreheads of those who planned it and supported it."

"This terror will not force the Emirates to move away from its fundamental and stable stands on Arab issues," he added.

Jordan Times

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Managing Editor: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH
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Flight to the ship

U.S. President Reagan's decision to pull out the Marines from Beirut signals the failure of his administration's policies on Lebanon. It also means many other things.

For Damascus, the American withdrawal would be seen as one big step towards the success of the Syrian position vis-a-vis the crisis of Lebanon. For President Amin Gemayel's Syrian-backed rivals, it will be an obstacle removed from the path of their struggle for sharing power or seizing the upper hand in their fight with the regime. For the Lebanese president himself on the one hand, and for his father's Falangist Party on the other, the change in the American stance will be ominous with far-reaching consequences to grapple with. For the other major party to the conflict in Lebanon, Israel, it is an added risk culminating the total failure of "Operation Peace for Galilee".

There is no doubt that the collapse of the U.S. policy on Lebanon is a big setback for the Reagan administration. But this is not necessarily bad for Lebanon itself.

If the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Beirut will facilitate a face-saving formula for the Syrians to also pull out their troops from the Bekaa and the north, the American move will have helped, rather than hindered, the restoration of the strife-torn country. The realisation of this theory, however, is contingent on creating new political variables that would be conducive to a Lebanese national reconciliation and to prompt withdrawals of all foreign forces from Lebanon soil.

How these ambitious but essential changes can be effected, given the complexity of the situation and the confusing historical record in the area generally, is the basic question that has to be addressed. And nothing short of a fresh look, a fundamental re-assessment by the Americans of the whole conflict in the Middle East, stands a chance of success in bringing about the required changes.

It looks like an impossible task for Washington to undertake, some may believe, considering that it is an election year in the U.S., and that Israel would never accept to leave Lebanon without its conditions met. But it is not.

The Reagan administration can all too easily accept, if it wants and as it should, the fact that Israel must not be allowed to reap any benefits from its invasion of Lebanon and that it must withdraw its occupation forces from the South unconditionally, in accordance with U.N. resolutions and international laws; that, once Israel withdrew from Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians will follow suit, opening the way for a true Lebanese reconciliation and a genuine settlement of the crisis there; and that, with Lebanon restored and free, the Palestinian problem would have to be tackled at its roots, exchanging territory for lasting peace.

This is not ideology, nor an extremist position nor rhetoric. It is simple logic and basic demands, the facts on the ground, the way we see it here. The Americans have tried every other approach except the right one. Look what they have got in return.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Lebanon nears partition

LEBANON is a divided country and on the brink of collapse. The warring factions there now await the right moment to announce the partition of Lebanon after it has remained for almost a decade in a state of total confusion and destruction. It is painful to watch this happening and is more painful to watch the Arabs doing nothing to save Lebanon from U.S. and Zionist conspiracies. When the Israelis invaded Lebanon under the pretext of providing security and peace for the Galilee, Lebanon was already in a state of destruction but now, as the situation continues to deteriorate, and with the presence of Israeli forces and the U.S. troops, the situation is made much more serious. The Lebanese factions are now about to announce the partition of Lebanon thus closing a black chapter in the country's history and probably ending for ever the chance of ever uniting the country again.

Israel invaded Lebanon in the hope of concluding a separate peace treaty with its government so as to pave the way for imposing total Israeli hegemony on Lebanon. This ambition was displayed in a clearer manner when Israel signed its strategic alliance treaty with the United States which helped further to aggravate the situation to serve Zionist purposes and objectives. The United States, whose troops have exercised hostile activities against Lebanese national groups, has failed to honour its commitment to bring about a total Israeli withdrawal, and its envoy continues to tour the region in a further bid to tighten the conspiracy against Lebanon and the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: U.S. speeds destruction

THE UNITED States bears the responsibility for the deaths of their Marines in Lebanon and it is also to blame for the deterioration of the situation in that country. The United States, which supported Israel's invasion of Lebanon, has helped to speed the destruction of that country by siding with one warring faction against the other. The total collapse of Lebanon and its present government will cancel for ever U.S. influence and presence in that country. The collapse of Lebanon as an independent entity will have tremendous reverberations in other parts of the Middle East region.

President Gemayel now faces the situation alone and it is up to him to save the country from total disintegration. It is indeed illogical for the president to remain adamant in his policies which have failed to serve the country or its unity. The president must realise that all the conspirators, including Israel and the United States, have lost everything in Lebanon. What remains is the Lebanese people who alone can forge a new future to ensure equal rights for all and safeguard the interests of all communities.

Sawt Al Shaab: Everyone must compromise

THE POLICIES of President Gemayel in Lebanon are not realistic ones. He relied on U.S. support and the Israeli-Lebanese agreement to re-establish his authority in the country instead of trying to reach an agreement acceptable to all warring factions. The events of the past week have led to a serious deterioration in the situation in Lebanon fuelled by the opposition's persistent demands for the resignation of the government and the president. The situation was aggravated because the Beirut government had failed to revive the national reconciliation conference in Geneva.

The continuous fighting will not solve the problems of Lebanon and not only the government but all the other warring factions should realise this fact as they must also know that the total collapse of any one faction will open the door wide to foreign intervention. We hope that the current round of violence in Lebanon will end soon. We also hope that this will be followed by a determined attempt by all the factional leaders to work out a formula to safeguard the interests of all parties.

Hard times for Uncle Sam in Lebanon

By R. Gregory Nokes
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The fall of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, whose resignation is demanded by his increasingly powerful opposition, would likely reduce U.S. influence over the embattled country while boosting Syria's power.

Because of its unwavering support of Mr. Gemayel, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration would have a difficult time establishing credibility with the mainly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shi'ite Amal factions that were pushing Mr. Gemayel's army out of West Beirut Monday.

Even if Mr. Gemayel maintains his title, his power is likely to be sharply diminished, U.S. officials say. The reluctantly concede that Soviet-backed Syria is likely to emerge with significant influence over the Beirut government, while U.S. influence will decline. Although probably not disappear.

The U.S.-engineered Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal May agreement is almost a certain casualty already of the latest round of fighting. The future of the Multinational Force, including 1,600 U.S. Marines, looks dim.

One well-placed official said the situation "conceivably could be near the kind of collapse that

might cause Mr. Reagan to pull the Marines out. Mr. Reagan said on Dec. 14 that "a collapse of order" could prompt a pull-out.

Secretary of State George Shultz, speaking in Brasilia, Brazil, said the administration will review its policies as a result of the fighting. "We will have to see what emerges and take our position in light of that," he said.

But another official, who insisted on anonymity, cautioned that the situation is very fluid and while Mr. Gemayel's back is to the wall now, he could rebound later. A lot may depend on whether Washington unleashes its warships to bombard Mr. Gemayel's enemies, he said.

Unless Washington intervenes, the well-placed official said, Mr. Gemayel's enemies could force a major restructuring of the government while letting Mr. Gemayel maintain the title of president.

Another official, who also insisted on anonymity, said the immediate future depends on the response of the various warring factions in Lebanon to Mr. Gemayel's call for a resumption of the recessed National Reconciliation Conference in Geneva later this month.

Such a conference could produce a restructuring of the government to give the Druze and Shi'ite Muslims more power. Syria, in the view of U.S. officials,

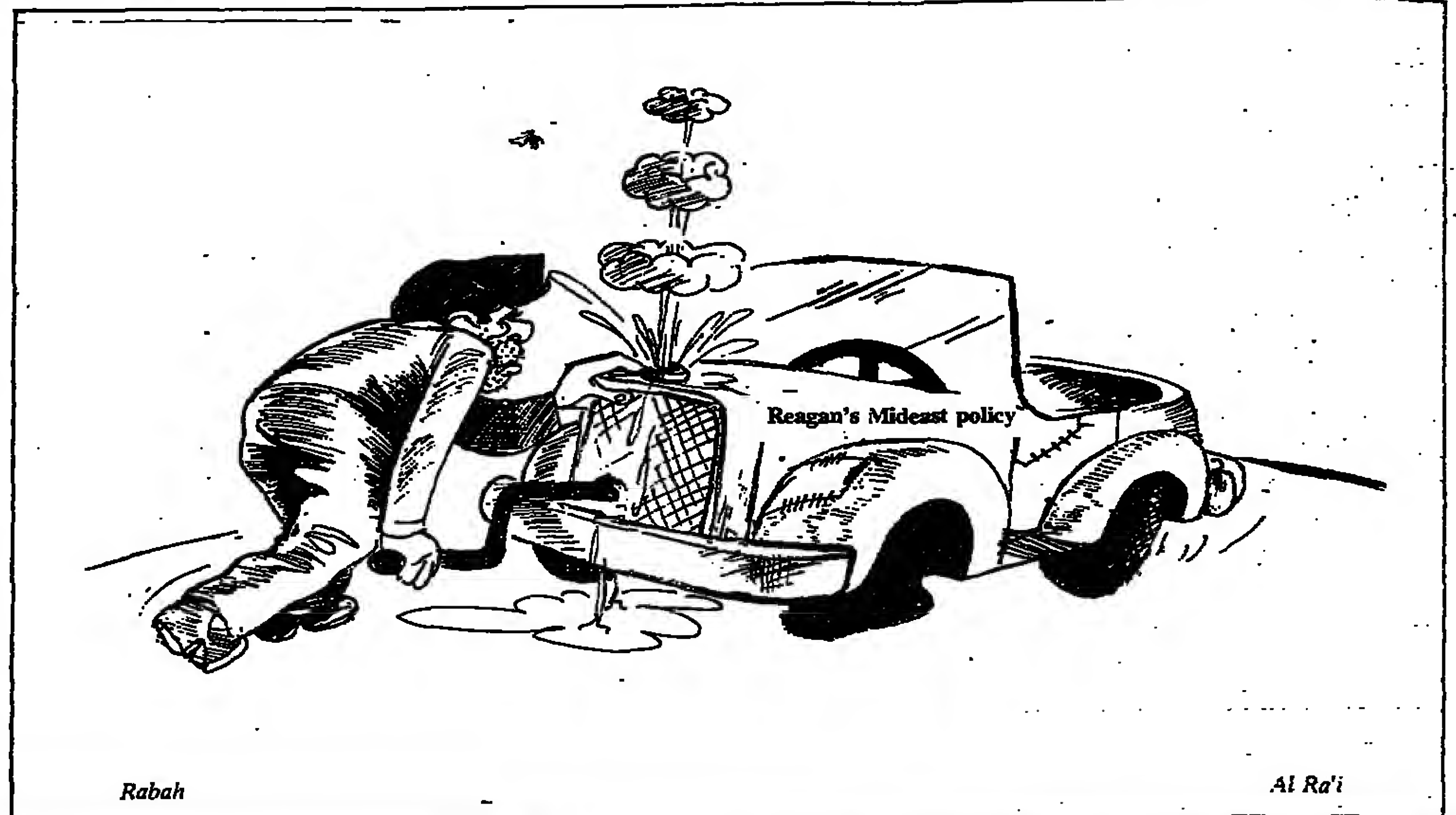
now has so much influence over Mr. Gemayel's enemies that it probably has veto power over any settlement.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt is in line with Syria's demands that the

Multinational Force leave and for the abrogation of the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement, which has never been implemented because of Syrian opposition.

For all Washington's efforts, Mr. Gemayel never succeeded in extending his authority outside Beirut, and even in Beirut, his authority was shaky at best, the Israelis, who set off the latest

round of turmoil by invading Lebanon allegedly to drive out the Palestinians in 1982, appear only to want to get out of Lebanon at this point and have not visibly raised a hand to help Mr. Gemayel.



Major flare-up possible in the Gulf war

By Barry Simpson
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Iraq has threatened to launch air and missile strikes against 11 Iranian towns this week in what could prompt a major flare-up in the 40-month-old Gulf war.

Iran has warned that it will hit back hard if Iraq carries out the threat, which Baghdad says is in retaliation for Iranian artillery shelling of Iraqi border towns.

The next few days could thus see an escalating war of words between the two sides erupt into renewed heavy fighting after months of relative stagnation in the ground exchanges.

Baghdad has been saying for weeks that Tehran was planning a new ground offensive, probably on the southern front — the first since a series of attacks in the mountains of the north which ended some three months ago.

Iran has said thousands of volunteers were heading for the front for what Tehran newspapers described as "the final blow" against Iraq.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Saturday night that reserve battalions of the Revolutionary Guard were being mobilised, but did not elaborate on the reasons for the move.

Iran has repeatedly warned that its patience is wearing thin with Iraqi attacks on shipping heading

to and from Iranian ports at the head of the Gulf, in which several non-Iranian merchant ships have been sunk.

Iraq has declared a large area of the Gulf, encompassing the major Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini and Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, a prohibited zone, warning that its navy and air force might attack any vessels entering it.

Bandar Khomeini is among the 11 targets Baghdad says it will hit this week but Kharg — probably the most sensitive potential target for Iraqi attack — is not on the list.

Iraq says it considers the oil terminal and tankers using its legitimate targets. The island, lying just over 200 kilometres from Iraq's territory, is within range of Iraq's new SS-12 Soviet medium range missiles, its smaller Scud-B missiles and Exocet missile-carrying Super-Etendard fighter-bombers.

Military sources say the new missiles, with a range of up to 800 kilometres are far more accurate than the erratic Scuds, which have been used in attacks on Iranian towns which Tehran says have killed hundreds of civilians.

The threats and attacks on shipping at one stage prompted Japanese shipowners and the seamen's union to ban Japanese-owned or crewed tankers loading at Kharg.

Although the ban was subsequently lifted, Japanese oil sources

say it would be reimposed immediately if any tankers were attacked. Japan is one of Iran's biggest oil customers.

Iraq has said it would blockade the Strait of Hormuz, the entrance to the Gulf through which a sixth of the non-Communist world's oil supplies pass, if Iraq disrupted its oil exports.

Tehran officials also said last week Iran would strike at Iraqi economic targets if it did bombard Iranian towns — a possible reference to Iraq's pipeline across Turkey to the Mediterranean, which Iran has said before it might attack.

The pipeline, recently upgraded to a capacity of 900,000 barrels a day (BPD) from 700,000, serves Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields which lie about 100 kilometres from the border.

It has been Iraq's sole outlet for its crude oil exports since the war shut its Gulf ports and Tehran's ally Syria closed a pipeline across its territory to Iraqi crude.

Iraq's oil exports have thus slumped to barely on quarter of their pre-war peaks. And while it is planning fresh outlets including new pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Jordan to the Red Sea, it will be some time before these can help bolster the oil revenue needed to sustain its war effort.

Iraq, meanwhile, has continued to export its crude almost unhindered by the conflict, with pro-

duction currently running at around 2.4 million BPD.

Many Western diplomats believe Iraq now sees a dramatic blow aimed at Iran's crude oil jugular vein as the only way to force Tehran to the negotiating table.

But the diplomats say major Gulf oil exporters such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which have poured billions of dollars into supporting Baghdad's war effort, are likely to be urging it against such action, fearing the dramatic escalation of the conflict could provoke.

Iraq has repeatedly said it wants an end to the war, but Tehran says it will go on fighting until the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is toppled and Baghdad agrees to pay billions of dollars in war reparations.

Western analysts have estimated world oil prices could more than triple to around \$100 a barrel within weeks of any closure of the Gulf, dealing a serious blow to Western economies.

The U.S. last week denied a British press report that Washington and London had agreed on a convoy system to protect oil tankers in the event of an Iranian blockade. Both countries now have warships either in or close to the Gulf.

But President Reagan has warned that the West would not tolerate a blockade, and refused to rule out military intervention to keep the oil flowing.

A growing number of protestors

For some Israelis, Lebanon is the limit

By David K. Shipler

TEL AVIV — Among the statistics of the Lebanon war, one of the more significant provided by the Israeli Army stood last week at 110. That was the number of Israeli soldiers sent to prison so far for refusing to serve in Lebanon.

Zvi Zoref is one of them. A scholarly-looking, 27-year-old history student at Hebrew University, he spent 37 days as a reservist with his artillery unit shelling West Beirut in the summer of 1982. In September of the same year, he was called again. He refused to go and was sentenced to 27 days in what the army calls Prison Six, a fenced-in tent camp in northern Israel. He was only the third to be imprisoned, the vanguard of a spreading movement called "Yesh Gvul" — "There's a Limit."

"I was shocked during the war," he said. "I saw terrible things there. We got the order and started shelling Palestinian refugee camps in southern Beirut. We were located in hills south of Beirut. We could see our shells fall, and the light of the explosions." He winced. "It was evening. It was just terrible. It went on for four hours, and then we got an order to stop it. Everybody thought the bombing and shelling would keep the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) there quiet and the Israeli Army could enter Beirut with few casualties. I said, 'if we're going to Beirut, I'll just take my things and go home. I couldn't stand it anymore.'"

Mr. Zoref now casts his refusal in terms of principle, arguing that the war was not forced on Israel and had political aims. "Many feel that the government, by sending the army into Lebanon, broke an unwritten agreement between the government and the people," he said. "That the people would be asked to sacrifice their lives only to do something they believed in."

Nothing the casualties, 567 Israelis dead and 3,240 wounded as of last week, Mr. Zoref declared, "I just feel it was for nothing."

Not all who refuse are imprisoned. Commanding officers are sometimes understanding. Called up twice since prison, Mr. Zoref has been relieved from duty in Lebanon by his commander's acceptance of the excuse that his studies would suffer. Robert Banvolgyi, 30, a reserve sergeant in the military police, had a disorienting experience when both he and his officer, a lieutenant, refused an assignment to guard captured Palestinians at the Ansar prison camp in southern Lebanon.

The lieutenant was court-martialed and sentenced to Prison Six. Sergeant Banvolgyi was not punished but was transferred to the same prison as a guard.

"We had a very interesting situation in which I became his commander," Mr. Banvolgyi chuckled. Later, Mr. Banvolgyi served two prison terms himself after continuing to refuse duty in Lebanon.

This "war of choice" has been a new experience for Israel, and so has the conscientious objection accompanying it. The country that once fought only for its "own survival" previously enjoyed a crucial consensus of its people's army. Above all other institutions, the army was Israel's universal leveller and integrator, blending the diverse population in an end-



avour beyond politics, commanding the same loyalty as the nation itself.

The army worries

It may be too early to say that this has been lost, but something has certainly changed. In previous wars there have been a few desertions and in recent years occasional refusals on principle to serve in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But nothing approaching the current scope of resistance has been seen here before.

"The army, I think, was a bit slow in grasping the magnitude of the severity, rather, of this behaviour," said Brig. Gen. Yaacov Even, the army's spokesman. "I think now we do understand, and I don't think any senior officer is going to be forgiving. The army takes it very seriously, although the phenomenon is marginal. It's seriously, although the phenomenon is marginal. Its only 110 out of many thousands. So the numbers do not frighten us. But the phenomenon is very serious because it is endangering the very basis of our democracy, of our discipline, of our behaviour as reserve soldiers."

Defining the magnitude of the resistance is difficult. While the 110 who have been imprisoned represent only a tiny fraction of the armed forces, they exclude those quietly transferred by sympathetic commanders to duty inside Israel and those who avoid Lebanon by producing false medical excuses and stories of family crises. The Yesh Gvul movement says these are numerous.

"This claim cannot be proved or disproved," countered General Even. "I have a feeling that it is not commonly so. In Lebanon, the lack of manpower is enormous. The Awali River is a long line, the missions are very tiring, and they lack people. I don't think the battalion commanders or regiment leaders are going to give up their soldiers easily just for the pleasure of ideology." He said that refusal might have depleted logistics units but that statistics showed that reserve combat units were up to their normal strength.

Gen. Even stressed that virtually all those who had refused were reservists and that nobody had resisted during the first three months after the Israeli invasion in June 1982. "All this came later, from September or October on," he said. "When the really tough fighting was already ended, and the stay-at-home, just staying, got on the nerves of people."

The army has limited sentences to 35 days but has won court authorisation to imprison recalcitrant reservists repeatedly. A different remedy was proposed by a fellow soldier after Noam Kamnitzer, a medic, returned to his unit after prison. "He said if it were up to him," Mr. Kamnitzer reported, "he would put a bullet in my head." — New York Times.

What is new in 'North-South' dialogue?

By Patti Waldmeir
Reuters

BRUSSELS — The European Community and 64 developing countries meet here this week to try to revive the "North-South" dialogue amid Third World charges that Europe is treating them like beggars seeking a handout.

"We're not asking for charity," says Joshua Cavalevu, Fijian chairman of the ambassadors' negotiating committee of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

They are linked to the community through the Lome Convention on Trade and Aid, which expires later this year. The two sides meet on Thursday to try to hammer out a fresh pact.

"Most Europeans seem to think Lome aid is a simple handout. It's not," Mr. Cavalevu told Reuters in an interview. "Developing Third World markets and raw materials supplies is crucial to the health and security of European industry."

ACP officials fear the community intends to impose even stricter conditions on the use of aid at a time when they are seeking a freer hand in how it is spent. They see their sovereignty at stake.

The original Lome Pact was hailed as a model for co-operation between the rich nations of the northern hemisphere and the poor, developing South when it was signed in 1974.

But relations have soured considerably as recession has hit aid flows and the theory of "North-South" interdependence has gone out of fashion, ACP officials said.

Reviving the dialogue will depend on Europe recognising its dependence on developing countries, which are its main raw materials suppliers and largest market, Mr. Cavalevu said.

"Trade with us accounts for one European job in 15, and 75 per cent of Europe's industry depends on our raw materials."

"If we stopped exporting cobalt, what do you think would happen to Europe's military establishment?"

Two previous Lome pacts have failed to recognise and exploit this interdependence, and have fallen well short of the aim of promoting ACP economic development, Mr. Cavalevu said.

But few ACP states are ready to jettison the pact. "We need each other. Lome is about the only remaining avenue of 'North-South' dialogue," he said.

"Do you see the U.S., Japan, or Russia getting interested in the ACP countries?" one African official asked privately.

Community officials agree the Lome pact has fallen short of expectations. But their proposals for reform seem set to spark a bitter ideological dispute with their ACP partners.

Community Development Commissioner Edgard Pisani said last March that the bloc favoured a shift towards joint discussion of development policies with the ACP states, an approach which he said would "turn development aid on its head."

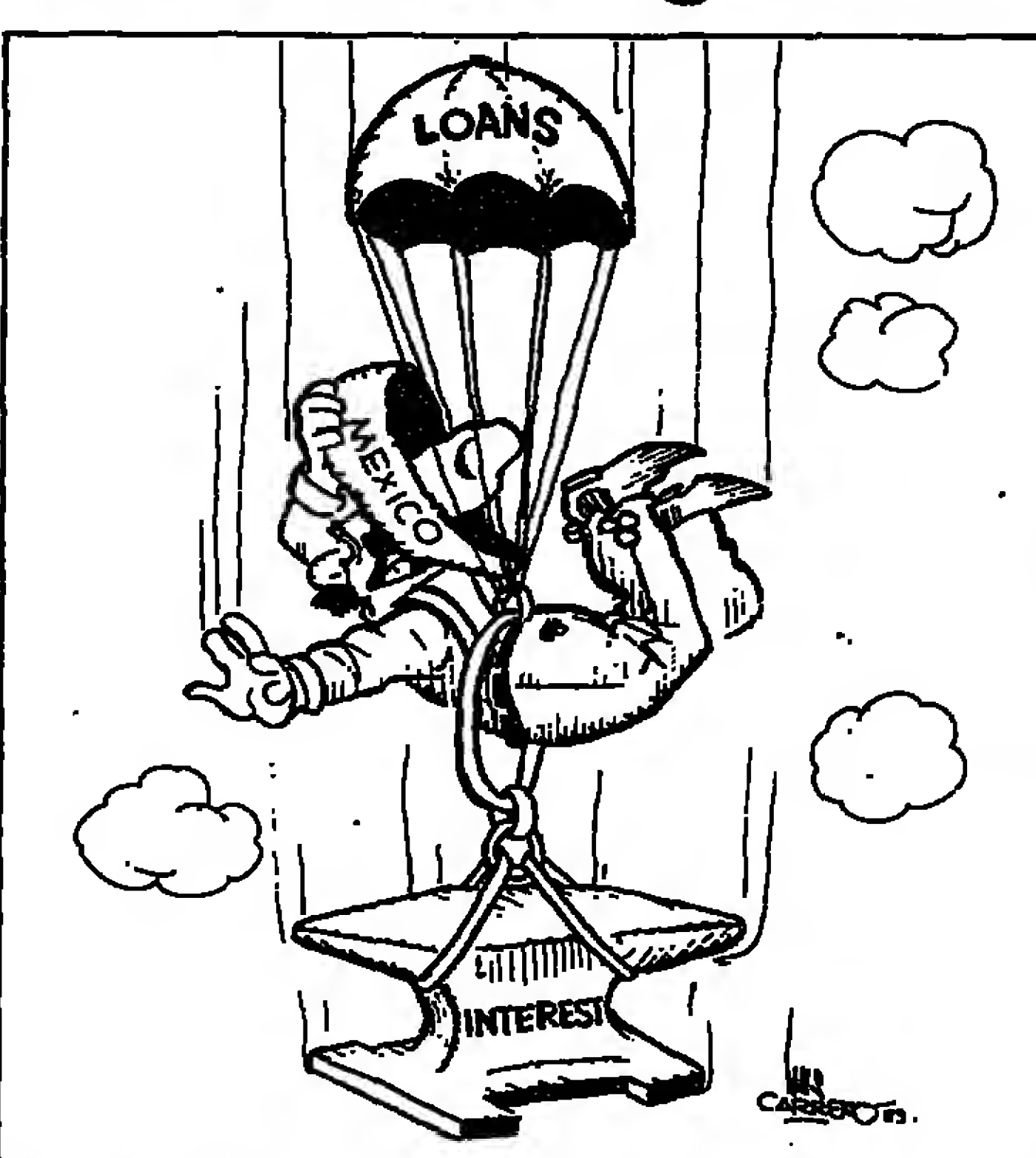
Bloc officials say the aim of this so-called "policy dialogue" would be to improve efficiency in the use of aid.

"We want to avoid the situation under Lome-2 (the current pact) where aid money was scattered more or less arbitrarily among small projects which were poorly co-ordinated," a spokesman for the bloc's Executive Commission said.

The ACP states are opposed to the new approach, however, and have so far refused to discuss it.

"They want an opportunity to pass a value judgement on our development priorities, to tell us what is not in our interest," said Ghana Ambassador Jack Wilmot.

Mr. Cavalevu said it could compromise ACP sovereignty, adding: "It makes it seem like we're still being ruled by the very people we've just become politically independent of."



dependent of."

ACP officials argue they have very little say now over how the \$5 billion paid out under the five-year life of the current pact is spent and oppose any further loss of control.

They stress that most of the money now finds its way back to Europe in the form of ACP imports of European machinery and expertise — a claim disputed by the community.

Diplomats say the ACP strategy for reforming Lome is to shift the emphasis away from aid towards trade.

Although ACP goods enter the community duty-free, the 64 member states have seen their share of the bloc's market fall to 5.3 per cent now from eight per cent in the early 1970s.

Community rules, which require a high level of local content in

goods imported from the ACP states, restrain ACP exports by discouraging the use of cheap local labour to assemble foreign-made components for re-export, officials said.

Even if policy disagreements can be resolved, the talks could still founder on the issue of human rights, officials from both sides said.

The community wants a human rights clause in the current pact to be strengthened in a way which diplomats say would allow aid to be cut off for human rights violations.

ACP officials oppose the move, saying the talks should be limited to economic rather than political issues.

Four months into the expected 15-month negotiating period, neither side is yet willing to put a figure to the new pact.

Message to Jewish Americans

By Alfred M. Lilienthal

THE QUESTION of the abnormality of Israeli nationalism lies at the very heart of the Middle East dilemma but the character and nature of Israel is never discussed in Israel or Arab circles, let alone American. Yet it is *de facto* non to any hope of achieving just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Zionist founders, led by David Ben-Gurion, told the world that "a Jewish state in Palestine to be called Israel" was being established in accordance with "the self-evident right of the Jewish people to re-establish their independent state". Notwithstanding the objection of many Jews in the diaspora, Israeli leaders have continued to insist that they are speaking in the name of all Jews everywhere, that is, in the name of "the Jewish people".

Israeli leaders have insisted that they are speaking in the name of all Jews everywhere.

Ask any Israeli today what he is and without any hesitation his reply will be: "I am a Jew," rather than: "I am an Israeli." To him his nationality is Jewish, his citizenship Israeli. It is Zionism, the governing ideology of Israel, that has decreed that no matter under what flag a Jew is born, his nationality is Jewish. It is the realisation of the Zionist dream, the creation of a world-wide Jewish nation with its situs in Israel, in contra-distinction to an Israeli state promulgating Israeli nationalism, that continues to constitute the principal threat to peace.

While Arabs bitterly opposed the creation of Israel, today it is

not the existence of Israel, but the kind of Israel that accounts for the continuing conflict. While the Zionist leaders have failed to convince Jews outside that they should emigrate to the Holy Land and end their "exile", Jews, particularly in the U.S., are doing the next best thing in giving all-out financial, political and moral support to Israel, even to the extent of underwriting innumerable policies and actions which nationals of another country ought not dare underwrite. It is this continuing blank check, inevitably manifesting itself in the form of successive and successful pressures on the White House and Congress, that strikes fear in Arab hearts and blocks movement towards peace.

Israel's Law of Return codifies "the Jewish people" concept. This and the Nationality Law endow any Jew a status that is denied to any Palestinian although he has been born in the land and has forebears that have been there for a thousand years.

If outside Jews are to be considered part of the Israeli state and are to be gradually "ingathered," to use Zionist jargon, then the other side of the coin is that more Palestinians have to be removed, as they have been, let alone not permitted to return home, to make room for incoming Jews. That is why Shamir, Begin, Sharon, et al., demand and exercise the "right" of Jewish Israelis to settle on the West Bank, which, according to their Zionist ideology, is still Biblical Judea and Samaria. Because Jews in the U.S. and the West remain most reluctant to emigrate to Israel themselves, the Israeli government has been offering every kind of inducement to its own citizens to

settle on the West bank and has been most successful in this effort.

The Israeli settlement policy has been under attack both abroad and at home from the opposition Labour Alignment. But the Labour Party itself was responsible for the large number of earlier settlements. At present, for political reasons, Labour voices disapproval of the timing and location of the Begin settlements, which they view as an obstruction to the resumption of the Camp David autonomy talks. But they do not contend that Israel has no right to move into land belonging to the Palestinian Arabs — i.e., they do not oppose the basic concepts of Jewish nationalism and Zionist ideology.

Myopic American Jews do not realise — or even appreciate — that they are unwittingly accepting a different status and the serious consequences of this. With the establishment of the Zionist Israeli state, Jews have been transmuted from a religious to a national ethnic grouping. The world Jew is now used simultaneously to denote a universal faith and a particular nationality, and the corresponding allegiances to religion and state have become totally confused. Torn between Israeli powers and Jewish ethics, American Jews have opted for the former by remaining silent and permitting organised Jewry to speak for them.

As outraged as many Jews were momentarily by the aerial onslaught on Lebanon and the Palestinian camp massacres, total Jewish support for Israel, either dollar or political-wise, has diminished very little even in the face of the most astounding television exposure of human butchery. Blinded by their own latent duality,

too many Jews have found comfort in the immediate outcome of Israel's latest war — the crushing military defeat of the PLO — and hence are unable to discern that this scarcely is an answer to the problem. Too few appreciate that the Palestinians with their just cause will just not vanish, and Zionist military success has lulled too many Jews into such a sense of false security that they refuse to consider the possibility that many Americans may one day re-examine their historic tolerance towards Jewish separatism and realise that public questioning might not run counter to the interests and moods of America. The continuing conflict in Lebanon in which American lives are being lost could reasonably lead to an increased demand that Jews separate their metaphysical practices essential to worshipping God from their national activities related to a foreign state.

It is the Jews of this country who will be the great losers unless they alter dramatically the character of the state by liberating themselves from the stranglehold of organised Jewry.

How unreasonable is it for any American to demand that the state of Israel be subject to the same atmosphere of free criticism which every other state in the world must endure? How long will Americans, acting under the blinding spell of the continually invoked "holocaust," bow to the exploitation of the anti-Semitic label in repressing any and all censures of Israel or its American supporters? This kind of pressure —

veritable blackmail — can eventually result in the most dangerous backlash. Anti-Semitism can reach a point where it has exactly the opposite effect from the one its adherents seek.

"Commentary" magazine editor Norman Podhoretz has charged that the severe criticism of Israel at the U.N. and elsewhere represents a covert attack on the political culture of the United States. This is just not so. In my opinion, most Americans do not like giving one country or one group of people a total immunity from criticism or censure.

Jewish Americans run grave dangers when, regardless of American national interests, they instantaneously rally to an Israeli leader who, like Begin, insists: "The unity of the Jewish people is a second line of defence for the state of Israel." There is bound to be a growing, smouldering, deep resentment against such a privileged Jewish dichotomous status stemming from treating Israel as a 51st state rather than as the foreign country it is.

In the long run, it is the Jews of this country, along with Israel, who will be the great losers unless they dramatically alter the character of the state by liberating themselves from the stranglehold of organised Jewry. Jewish Americans have it in their power to change the tragic course on which they and the world seem to be inexorably bound. Without the slightest of conscience qualms, Jewish Americans could and should act now to encourage Washington to bring Israel and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to the negotiating table. They will quickly

discover that once Zionist expansionism is removed, Arab "eliminationism" will disappear.

The seemingly impossible can yet become the possible Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis, could resume their millennial living together peacefully side by side, as they did before the 20th-century advent of Zionism. With the exclusivity of Jewish nationalism removed, a normal Israeli state, treating all of its own citizens equally and ceasing to make Arabs second-class citizens, as it does now, would have little to fear from an adjacent Palestinian entity which likewise treats its own Arab and Jewish citizens equally.

"This no doubt will mean a diminution in the sovereignty of the Israeli state. But the real concern of all Americans, after all, whether Christian or Jew, is the security of the people of Israel, not the retention of power by Israeli and Jewish leaders.

Once Jewish Americans have the courage to make it unmistakably clear that Zionists speak for no one but themselves, this country's political obsession with the "Jewish vote" will no longer haunt the nation's foreign policy. As the presidential campaign moves ahead, this is the appropriate moment for Jews to throw off this dangerous yoke. By acting now, they may liberate American Middle East policy to develop in the national interest as well as for the interest of all peoples in the area.

Dr. Lilienthal is an American Jew who edits *Middle East Perspective*. He contributed this article to *Middle East International*, London.

Randa Habib's Corner

Better medical care

THE ORGANISATION of medical care is an urgent problem that should be solved by the responsible people. Why can't we have specialised centres like a heart centre, a cancer centre etc., which would allow the grouping in one place of the tests that heart and cancer patients would have to make?

At the present time, a patient who has to undergo preliminary tests to diagnose his illness should go to four or five different places in order to make those tests. For example, a bone scan is done in one place, a chest X-ray in a second and a mammogram in a third one.

Al Hussein Medical Centre is surely the place where one can make most medical tests, but even there all the tests are not possible such as a mammogram.

Regarding the centre, should you need to go there for treatment when you are not lawfully entitled to be admitted there, there are two alternatives: You either have the money to pay the deposit needed or you are poor, and in this case this is what happens: — You either know someone high up who would help you, or you should go through a laborious process.

In the second case, a patient should refer to the government and go to a governmental clinic where a doctor will send him or her to the Bashir Hospital, which in turn, and if necessary, will refer the patient to the Medical Committee. This committee will then decide whether the patient should be sent to the University Hospital or to the Centre. In some cases, by the time those tedious formalities are over, the patient can really be in a bad shape.

Study shows rainfall can increase pollution

STOCKHOLM — During rainfall considerable quantities of physical, chemical and biological substances are carried to the receiving bodies of water, and stormwater runoff from urban areas may, therefore, be an environmental problem, according to a doctoral thesis presented at the Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, by Per-Arne Malmqvist. The result presented in the report are derived from a large project on urban hydrology and analyses the inflows and outflows of nitrogen, phosphorus, lead, zinc and copper in the Gothenburg area.

With the aid of a specially developed method, mass flows from different sub-areas within an urban area were estimated, as were the effects of some counter-measures against the pollution of stormwater runoff. In each area, with varying degrees of urbanisation, the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff, dry-weather flow, and precipitation were measured, together with the corrosion of building materials, atmospheric fallout and the quality of the ambient air. Thorough surveys of the areas supplemented the measurements.

It was found that atmospheric fallout was the dominant source of nitrogen and phosphorus and sometimes the dominant source of lead, zinc and copper. Important inflows in nitrogen and phosphorus came from animal droppings, mainly from dogs and birds. Corrosion gave large inflows of copper and zinc in areas where

Conclusions of the report include that outflow of phosphorus could be reduced by up to 70 per cent in densely populated, highly impermeable city centre areas, if restrictions were to be introduced against dogs, and that restrictions against traffic or against lead in petrol could substantially decrease the outflow of lead from the stormwater system.

It is pointed out that every catchment area is unique and that, therefore, a separate analysis should be carried out for each area. Dr. Malmqvist also recommends that further research be initiated on the distribution of vehicle-emitted substances, and the redistribution of substances on to pavements and adjacent land, including vegetation, soil, soil-water and ground-water. These studies should also be undertaken for winter conditions when the ground is covered with snow and there are piles of snow along the streets, he says. — Newsletter from Sweden.

New Soviet film openly attacks cruelty to children

By Andrew Rosenthal
Associated Press

MOSCOW — A haunting and engagingly frank film about the horrors and maturing of children, has premiered in Moscow, the latest manifestation of growing private and official concern about Soviet youth problems.

Directed by Rolan Bykov, one of this nation's most beloved actors, the film "Scarecrow" is a harrowing tale of peer pressure and childhood cruelty. It focuses on a 12-year-old girl who is ridiculed, hated and beaten by her classmates.

But it also is intended as a message about "human immorality," Bykov said in an interview this week.

"We, as adults, must take responsibility for the children of our society," he said. "We find we have problems with our children and then start looking for the culprits."

"Don't forget — we are all fathers and mothers," said Bykov, a 54-year-old gnomish of a man whose flashing eyes and huge grin are familiar to most Soviets after roles in 100 films and 120 stage productions.

"Scarecrow," which opened at an invitation-only weekend premiere, is scheduled for general release in September. Already, it has sparked wide interest, and some controversy, in Moscow's intellectual and artistic circles.

It appears at a time when newspapers carry daily stories about a politburo-directed effort to improve education with a special eye

towards ideological training. There have been countless articles about other youth problems — including an attack on teens who use English slang and covet Western luxuries — and several recent films and television shows about children and schooling.

Many private citizens also are expressing concern about the development of their children in a society where the effects of liberal Western thought are increasingly felt, despite government campaigns.

Although unconnected to the official campaigns and outshining more didactic ideological works, "Scarecrow" provides a focus and forum for these debates.

Although not "anti-Soviet," the film addresses sensitive issues more frankly than is usual in this

society. Few mainstream Soviet directors have made such open appraisal of parenthood, schools and youth organisations. Bykov also suggests that conformity — a notion often demanded by Soviet Marxists — has little place in education.

The main character in "Scarecrow" is 12-year-old Elena Besoltseva, who moves to a small town near Moscow to live with her eccentric, much-maligned and reclusive grandfather.

There are few other adults in the movie: the well-meaning but empty-headed schoolteacher ignorant of the tragedy around her, the principal, who stands at the schoolhouse door nodding her head with a chilling, robotic grin that never changes, and the local military school's bandleader — a

sympathetic observer played by Bykov.

Elena, treated as a freak by classmates who call her "Scarecrow," is at first anxious for acceptance and even denounces her grandfather.

Her real troubles begin after the teacher tells the class they cannot have a promised trip to Moscow as punishment for skipping school to go to a movie.

A chilling scene follows in which the children form an initiation to ferret out the "inferior," immediately assuming roles they learned from adults.

Elena "confesses" to protect a handsome boy she likes and is hounded and beaten by her classmates, who finally steal her dress and burn it as an effigy labelled "Scarecrow."

The children's characters and story are a reflection of society and a biting criticism of teachers, officials and parents who fail to provide youth with the moral guidance it needs.

"The children in the film do not symbolise society, they are society. They are spies, crazy politicians, noble politicians, terrorists and those who fight to gain power over others," Bykov said.

Bykov said he made minor changes at the suggestion of the Artists Council at the government studio "Mosfilm."

But he said he resisted any substantive revision and still is confident the film will be released this fall — a feat perhaps out of reach for a younger director lacking Bykov's fame, security and influence.

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American officials tell story of U.S.-Israel free trade area

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Following are the texts of statements presented by Ambassador William E. Brock, U.S. special representative for trade negotiations, and Senator Robert Dole at the Senate Finance Committee hearing Feb. 6 on the proposed U.S.-Israel free trade area:

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the committee for providing the opportunity to discuss an important new trade initiative. President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir agreed on Nov. 29, 1983 to begin discussions between our two countries on the establishment of a two-way free trade area between the United States and Israel.

The United States has never negotiated an agreement of this type. We have experience in undertaking a one-way trade area through our Caribbean basin initiative. We also have a free trade agreement with Canada in the automobile sector. But we have never attempted an agreement which fully meets the definition of a free trade area in terms of the scope and the degree of reciprocal access which is contemplated in our agreement with Israel.

A Free Trade Area (FTA) is formed when two or more countries eliminate duties and non-tariff barriers on substantially all trade between them. Many countries are linked today by such free trade arrangements, although these agreements vary substantially in content.

The European Community (E.C.), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and the E.C.-Israel free trade area are but a few examples of the existence and variations of these agreements. Each existing Free Trade Area is different in terms of coverage, number of participants and approach to staging of the agreement.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) permits Free Trade Areas or customs unions as a deviation from article 1 (Most favoured Nation — MFN) under article XXIV, as long as the

agreement meets certain criteria. Free Trade Areas approved under the GATT must be designed "to facilitate trade between the constituent territories and not to raise barriers to the trade of other contracting parties with such territories."

Agreement beyond GATT

Free Trade Areas must cover "substantially all the trade" between the parties and must be staged into effect within a "reasonable" length of time. The agreement we anticipate with Israel will have to meet these criteria in order to be fully consistent with our GATT obligations.

Beyond the GATT definition we expect to include services and investment in the agreement to further liberalize our bilateral relations as well as to establish the precedent of including these important areas in our bilateral and multilateral agreements.

We have not yet decided the most appropriate type of authority to implement an agreement with Israel, but will be working with Congress in the coming months to accomplish this. I would like to take this opportunity to describe to you in more detail what the Israelis have proposed to us, the economic merits of this initiative, and the status of our discussions.

Israeli proposal

The government of Israel proposed the idea of a U.S.-Israel free trade area in 1981. At that time, interagency work began on determining the benefits of such a proposal to the United States. We also initiated informal discussions with the government of Egypt to determine their interest in a free trade area. It was the view of Egyptian officials that establishment of a free trade area was not in their economic interest at that time.

Changed political circumstances in the Middle East led us to postpone further consideration of the Israel free trade area. However, last year, Israeli officials again approached us and asked that we reconsider the proposal.

Further interagency work was undertaken and this fall, with concurrence of the trade policy committee, I recommended to President Reagan that the U.S. agree to begin negotiations with Israel on a two-way free trade area.

It is expected that the U.S.-Israel free trade area would be somewhat similar to the agreement Israel has with the E.C. although with considerably expanded coverage. However, unlike the E.C.-Israel agreement, the agreement the U.S. would enter would be consistent with the requirements of article XXIV of the GATT.

We expect to negotiate a comprehensive agreement covering not only tariff elimination on substantially all trade, but also dealing with subsidies, safeguards, rules of origin and a number of other subjects, including services and investment.

Under the terms of the E.C.-Israel agreement, imports of industrial products from Israel were granted duty-free entry after July 1, 1977, except for certain sensitive products on which full E.C. concessions were delayed until Dec. 31, 1979. Israel, for its part, eliminated duties on about 60 percent of its industrial imports from the E.C. in five stages by Jan. 1, 1980.

Duty-free treatment for the remainder was to be staged in 1985, with two possible two-year extensions granted to Israel at specific stages. Israel has asked for both of these extensions and will eliminate duties on all industries products by Jan. 1, 1989.

In addition to trade in industrial products, the 1975 agreement provided for preferential treatment of agricultural and processed agricultural goods traded between Israel and the E.C. Despite the limits imposed by the E.C.'s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the community agreed to make tariff reductions on about 80 percent of its agricultural imports from Israel.

Israeli exporters, however, must still comply with the requirements of the CAP and are often faced with the imposition of minimum prices, tariff quotas and voluntary restraint agreements. Due to the continued existence of these E.C. practices, Israel's tariff concessions to the E.C. have been quite limited.

The E.C.-Israel agreement also includes rather detailed provisions on safeguards, countervailing duties, antidumping, rules of origin, national security and consultation and dispute settlement. Our own agreement would likely contain similar provisions.

Total U.S. imports from Israel in 1982 were \$1.2 billion while total U.S. exports to Israel were

\$1.5 billion. About 90 percent of U.S. imports from Israel currently enter the U.S. duty-free, either on a MFN or GSP basis. Major U.S. imports from Israel include cut diamonds, tomato products, resistors, internal combustion engines, electrical articles, and high fashion apparel products such as swimwear.

On the export side, about 40-45 percent of our exports to Israel are dutiable, with tariffs averaging about 10.3 percent. However, U.S. products increasingly are facing a disadvantage in the \$8 billion Israeli market as a result of the E.C.-Israel free trade area.

This is particularly true in the industrial sector where our trade directly parallels that of the E.C. We also believe that our agricultural exports could increase significantly under an FTA, particularly given the relative lack of agricultural coverage under the E.C.-Israel free trade area.

Our most significant exports to Israel include grains, soybeans, kraft paper, textile fibers, tungsten, engines and spare parts, computers and other office machinery, electronic and electrical equipment, and transportation equipment.

In addition to facing high duties on a wide range of products entering the Israeli market, U.S. firms currently experience difficulty as a result of numerous Israeli non-tariff barriers. We believe that the free trade agreement provides the opportunity to eliminate many of these barriers. The issue of Israeli subsidy practices will also have to be addressed in the agreement.

America will gain more

In sum, the advantage of the U.S. negotiating a free trade area with Israel is that we stand to gain unrestricted access to an \$8 billion Israeli market in which a high proportion of imports are dutiable and in which many non-tariff barriers exist. In exchange for eliminating duties on essentially 10 percent of our own imports from Israel and providing secure access on products currently covered by GSP.

Israel cannot take advantage

Some people may claim that this still does not look like a fair deal when one considers Israeli access to our large market. However, the fact of the matter is that the size of the Israeli market and economy effectively limit their ability to take undue advantage of the U.S. market.

The Israeli labour force is limited in size, their labour costs are higher than all other developing countries and their populace is highly educated. They undoubtedly will increase their exports to the U.S. under an FTA, but they are unlikely to flood our market with low cost, labour intensive products.

We began our formal FTA negotiations with Israel on Jan. 17 in Washington. This first round of discussions focused heavily on the overall framework of an agreement, on the kinds of provisions which would have to be included and on the manner in which we will proceed with future negotiations.

While we have agreed at the outset that the agreement should meet the GATT criteria of coverage of substantially all trade between us, we will not undertake detailed negotiations on product coverage and staging until we have obtained economic advice from the International Trade Commission (ITC) on probable economic effects of eliminating U.S. duties.

We have requested this advice from the ITC and it has been promised within four months of the request date. The ITC will be holding public hearings in the next few months on all products which are currently dutiable in the United States. We already have initiated discussions with our private sector advisors, and these will continue throughout the negotiations.

In addition, the trade policy staff committee will be holding hearings in conjunction with ITC hearings in an effort to obtain further advice from the private sector. We believe that our discussions with the Israelis got off to a promising start and we are cautiously optimistic that we can achieve agreement within the next six months or so.

While U.S. procedural and legal constraints prevent us from negotiating product coverage at this time, we do believe that we can use the interim period to discuss the other provisions that will be necessary in the agreement, such as non-tariff barriers, rules of origin, services and investment and safeguards.

We have agreed to continue our discussions during February. A working-level team will travel to Israel next week to gather more information about Israel's import practices. We expect that a full delegation meeting will then take place in Washington and I plan to meet there after with the Israeli minister of industry and trade, Mr. Gideon Patt to assess the status of our discussions.

As our discussions with Israel proceed in the coming months, I look forward to conferring with you on a regular basis. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to address you.

Dole's speech

I am pleased to welcome Ambassador Brock and our private sector witnesses here today to testify on the president's proposal to create a free-trade area with Israel. Based as it is on a presidential commitment to Israel and sound economic advantages to the United States, the proposal deserves our most serious attention.

The 1983 trade figures released a week ago starkly revealed a deteriorating U.S. export position, which contributes substantially to

the record-setting trade deficits we are incurring. U.S. exports last year dropped 5.5 percent; this resulted in a \$1.6 billion trade deficit with the E.C., the first since 1972, and a \$38 billion deficit in manufactured goods — a startling reversal of the surplus enjoyed by the United States as recently as 1981.

Combined with sharply increased demand for imports resulting from the economic recovery in this country, the decline in U.S. exports is a cause for serious concern. The high value of the dollar, the loss of export markets in developing countries because of their debt problems, and foreign unfair trade practices all contribute to the difficulties faced by U.S. exporters.

Reducing the budget deficit will help their competitiveness by lowering interest and exchange rates; aggressively challenging unfair trade practices domestically and in the GATT hopefully will bring better discipline to the international trading system.

The U.S. recovery also will bring along the economic recoveries of our trading partners and encourage them to import more, even while we bear the brunt of their exports in the short run. But all of these things take time and can be of little comfort to the firms and workers struggling to be competitive in the international marketplace.

Deal offers immediate merit

In contrast to long-run strategies, the proposal for a free-trade area with Israel offers some immediate benefits to U.S. exporters. 40-percent of U.S. exports to Israel are dutiable, some at significantly protective rates. By comparison, 90 percent of imports from Israel into the United States enter duty free.

Even with this disparity, the United States enjoys a trade surplus with Israel. A free-trade area would appear, because of its mutual elimination of duties, to be of immediate and greater advantage to U.S. exporters than those in Israel.

Further, because of the free-trade arrangement that Israel has implemented with the E.C., U.S. exporters of manufactured goods will be increasingly disadvantaged in competing with E.C. By negotiating a free-trade area of our own, we can eliminate this disadvantage.

The mutual elimination of tariffs on goods traded between the United States and Israel thus offers a simple, concrete way of offering support for U.S. exports and, because most Israeli imports already enter duty-free, it appears to be a proposal involving little cost.

But I am also concerned that we use this opportunity to address bilaterally some non-tariff issues that the multilateral trading system has not proven very capable of addressing effectively. If at all, in particular, it is my view that a U.S.-Israel free trade arrangement should not be implemented without some provision

for disciplining Israeli's export subsidies.

To do otherwise would be unfair to U.S. workers and firms that compete with Israeli imports. Further, the United States should pursue agreement on such matters among like-minded countries where the multilateral system is incapable of moving forward on its own.

Similarly, we should explore with Israel the possibilities of including trade in services in the agreement, and covering other trade matters of interest to this country. The committee will hear from various witnesses that are concerned about the impact of the proposed arrangement on their industries. It is my understanding that the administration will refrain from making final judgments on the scope of product coverage of the arrangement until the international trade commission completes an economic study this spring.

It is my intent to ensure that any negotiations and proclamation authority approved by the Congress with regard to this proposal will include provisions safeguarding the interests of all U.S. firms and workers, while providing maximum flexibility to Ambassador Brock so that he can negotiate a meaningful agreement.

Benefits encourage approval

I have agreed to sponsor the administration's proposal when it is finalized, and in view of the substantial benefits offered by the successful conclusion of such an agreement with Israel, I intend to seek committee consideration and approval of a specific proposal at an early, appropriate time.

I hope the testimony will convince the members of the committee of the proposal's merit, and persuade them to join me in this effort, while pointing out those issues to which we need to pay particular attention.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 9, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until midafternoon, you can make some serious mistakes that involves financial or business matters. Make sure you handle things in a most cautious manner.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be careful not to take on any heavy investments which could cripple you financially very quickly. Socialize tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You are anxious to go after your personal wishes, but don't use force and make others turn against you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be tactful with your friends since they are apt to be under some tension or other and quick to retaliate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may find it difficult to get backing for practical affairs during day hours, but the evening is fine for such.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be protective of your good name during the daytime, but tonight you can have recreational fun. Use care at work.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You want to get into new interests, but it is important you handle regular routines during the day. Safeguard your money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make sure you go over some account, well, and be sure you have not made a mistake. Devote yourself to loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A partner could be fixed in ideas and give you a rough time if you don't compromise. Reach a happy agreement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may have difficulty on the job today, but use self-control and you win out. Rest up and be happy at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't spend too much money for pleasure during the day. Await the evening to seek out inexpensive pleasure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) There could be trouble at home if a close tie is under some bad outside influence, so be tactful with this person.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A letter or telephone call could cause problems, but handle them quickly and rise above depressed feelings.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she may have to contend with poor environment and other limitations, but with determination, can rise above them. Spiritual training is important. Teach how to work, even to acquire a good education and avoid bad influences.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Again, it is indicated that the daytime is not the time to force any issues and you would be wise to use your most sensible judgment in whatever arises. The evening is better.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Good day to look into some new interests, but don't confide in others as yet just what you intend to do.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Avoid those who have an eye on your assets during the daytime and keep calm. Don't lag behind in social affairs tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Find a better way of meeting your responsibilities and then you can be very constructive in the days ahead.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Decide what it is you want in life after you have analyzed what is good and what is bad, forgetting the latter.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Analyze how well you are handling your career work and plan to improve it so that you gain more in the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make sure you study every phase of your new ideas before you get them in motion. A new contact can be helpful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have made promises that should be kept, so get at them early and they are soon behind you. Keep busy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A conscientious attitude during the day can bring fine benefits tonight. Think constructively and logically.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Co-workers may be hard to handle, but be sure to use tact and they cooperate more. Be careful spending money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Seek only those pleasures you can truly afford in the evening, after you get important work done. Avoid arguments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study those plans well concerning kin before getting them in operation. Make sure you get bills paid on time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A day to be most careful and not get into anything that could get you into trouble or spoil your reputation. Drive carefully.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be able to solve difficult problems and should be taught also how to handle practical affairs intelligently. Give as good an education as you can afford in order to best equip your progeny for the business of living.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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Pakistan heads for slower growth, higher inflation

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's economy is heading for slower growth and higher inflation during the current fiscal year ending June 30, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

The state of the economy was reviewed at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Mohammad Zia ul Haq, the spokesman said.

"A strict watch should be kept on all prices," Gen. Zia was quoted as telling the meeting.

A gross national product

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"The pheasant under glass didn't work out, so we're having cold cuts under Tupperware."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BUNGE
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUIRE AGONY DEADLY ENGINE.
Answer: What kind of an experience is it to travel by flying carpet? — A RUGGED ONE

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

Sikh protest strike shuts down Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (R) — A Sikh protest strike to back demands for greater regional autonomy shut down the north Indian state of Punjab Wednesday but fears of fresh violence proved groundless.

Road and rail traffic stopped at 9 a.m. and factories, shops, banks and government offices were either completely closed or lightly staffed and not functioning.

Harchand Singh Longowal, head of the religious sect's main political party, the Akali Dal, described the one-day stoppage as the most successful day of protest in an 18 month-long campaign for a string of religious and political concessions.

"Operation Wheel Jam was most encouraging," Mr. Longowal told Reuters. "Reports I have received from all over Punjab say it has been peaceful and even tea shops in villages shut down."

Speaking at Amritsar's Golden Temple, holiest shrine of the Sikh religion and centre of the Akali Party campaign, Mr. Longowal said the strike showed the extent of backing for Akali demands.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi,

already grappling with an outcry over the kidnapping and murder of an Indian diplomat by Kashmiri Mr. Longowal has threatened to confront the strikers and offered an olive branch on the eve of the stoppage.

She ordered buses, trains and planes not to operate in Punjab Wednesday, heading off a threat by Sikhs that they would lie across runways and railway tracks to ensure that "not a wheel moved."

And after discussions with opposition leaders in Delhi Tuesday night she offered fresh talks with Akali leaders on their demands.

These include greater autonomy for Punjab, where most of the country's Sikhs live, the formal designation of Amritsar as a holy city, the transfer of about 30 Sikh temples around the country to control by the Golden Temple authorities and the merging into Punjab of Punjabi-speaking areas

of neighbouring states. Wednesday's strike was also called to highlight a demand for amendments to the constitution to end the classification of Sikhs with Hindus in some social and religious provisions.

organise a big demonstration in Delhi if the central government has not met the Akali demands by Feb. 26.

In Amritsar, which the authorities feared could be the focus for possible violence, the strike was held in a holiday mood.

Groups of Sikhs walked through the city of 600,000 people after 9 a.m. to ensure no vehicles were on the roads. Some cyclists tried to beat the ban by dashing down back alleys. But even they were stopped — though with good humour and some schoolboy-type tactics.

There were some reports of windows being smashed but the peaceful atmosphere contrasted with previous violent road and rail stoppages, a blow to extremists in the Sikh movement who had criticised Mr. Longowal as being too mild.

India expels 2 PIA employees

NEW DELHI (R) — India has ordered the expulsion of two Pakistani air line employees in apparent retaliation for similar action by Pakistan as relations between the two neighbours took a new plunge.

Hasan Shaheed and Abdul Ghani, employees of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) stationed in New Delhi, were served expulsion orders Tuesday night asking them to leave by Saturday, a PIA official told Reuters Wednesday.

An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said they were being expelled for undesirable activities. But the PIA official said no reason was given for the expulsion.

The action follows the expulsion on Monday of two Indian airlines employees for allegedly smuggling out of Pakistan two servants of an Indian diplomat.

India strongly protested at the expulsion and the minister of information and broadcasting postponed a trip to Pakistan shortly afterwards.

India also protested about reports that China was planning to help Pakistan build an airfield in Gilgit, a town in the Pakistan-administered sector of Kashmir.

An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman, commenting on Indian press reports, said neither Pakistan nor China had the right to carry out work in an area which was an integral part of India.

Rajiv Gandhi, son of the Indian prime minister, told a London newspaper recently Pakistan could invade the Indian sector of Kashmir within a year.

NASA anxious to fix satellite problems

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — Until engineers find and fix the problem that left two satellites unusable, the U.S. space agency's space transportation system will be unable to launch heavy payloads to high orbit, leaving the shuttle programme crippled and without a major source of income.

A failure by the payload assist module rocket booster led to the loss of both the Palapa-B satellite Monday and the Westar VI last Friday.

Aerospace officials have issued an industry equivalent to a recall. The PAM, officials say, will not be used again until engineers understand what caused the failures and can fix the problem.

"Some clarification of the problem would have to develop before we could recommend further use of the PAM motor," said Richard Brandes, a vice president of Hughes Aircraft Co., manufacturer of the twin satellites.

That was echoed by Charles

Ordahl, a vice president of McDonnell Douglas, prime contractor for the PAM.

Mr. Brandes said the failures of the two craft were so similar "it's eerie," implying there may be some basic flaw in the rocket booster system despite an earlier record of successes.

This leaves a large question mark in the middle of what was to have been the busiest year yet for the space shuttle.

The PAM was designed to be the workhorse of the national space transportation system. The boosters were to be used to move payloads weighing 1,814 kilograms or less from the low orbit where the shuttle operates

265 kilometres above earth to the 35,887 kilometre high orbit that is the working home of communications satellites. Without the PAM or similar boosters, the shuttle is changed from a long-haul space truck to a short-haul van.

Earthquake reported in Solomon Islands

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (AP) — A major earthquake jolted the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean early Wednesday, damaging several buildings in the capital, the broadcasting commission reported.

There were no reports of casualties, but officials were awaiting news on conditions and damages in the city of Marau in the south of the main island of Guadalcanal where the earthquake was centred, the commission said.

The Japanese Central Meteorological Agency said the tremor measured 7.7 on the open-

ended Richter Scale but that the quake would not cause any Tsunamis, or giant waves, which often occur after an undersea jolt.

Japanese officials said the agency's Matsushiro Seismic Station in Central Japan recorded the earthquake at 6:41 a.m.

The Richter Scale measures ground motion as recorded on seismographs and every increase of one number is a tenfold increase in magnitude.

A reading of seven is a major tremor capable of heavy widespread damage, and an eight is a quake capable of tremendous damage.

Peru counts 2,300 victims in 3-year-old guerrilla war

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The government has reported more than 2,300 persons, most of them Maoist insurgents, slain in Peru's three-year-old guerrilla war.

Although Interior Minister Luis Perovich did not break down the total, past reports show nearly 90 per cent of the deaths took place since President Fernando Belaunde Terry ordered the armed forces to take control of the

insurgency zone in south central Peru 13 months ago.

Newspapers have put the death toll at more than 2,500. In reporting 1,700 guerrillas and 650 civilians, police and government officials slain to date, Mr. Perovich said: "We cannot declare ourselves too optimistic or winners because we know new (guerrilla) groups are being formed."

COLUMNS 7&8

Miss Liberty to get new interior

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Statue of Liberty, currently undergoing badly needed structural repairs, will also get a redesigned interior to better accommodate her almost 2 million annual visitors, architects for the project announced Tuesday. The architects promised that the additions will alleviate the long lines and sweltering heat that now greet visitors to one of the United States' most popular tourist sites. The additions include an improved spiral staircase that will provide a better view of the statue's interior, a new glass-enclosed elevator to take visitors from the bottom to the top of the statue's 47 metre pedestal and complete cleaning of the interior to regain the original shiny copper finish. Most of the work to improve visitor flow will take place in the 15-storey pedestal on which the statue rests.

Protest held against abuse of poultry

LONDON (AP) — Animal rights activists protesting alleged abuse of poultry staged demonstrations Tuesday at seven British slaughterhouses. Police said the protests were mostly peaceful, but three people were arrested when they tried to prevent trucks carrying live chickens from entering a plant in Winchester, southern England. The national "day of action" protests were organised by Animal Aid, a non-violent group opposed to factory poultry farming. The transport of broiler chickens and battery hens from factory farms to slaughterhouses, and the conditions there, is one of the most deplorable areas of all animal abuse," said a spokesman who did not want his name used.

Drunken driver plunges into Danube

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungarian police on Tuesday were still looking for a truck driver — dead or alive — after he escaped from a police station, drove his vehicle amuck along the Danube and disappeared as it plunged into the river Monday, the news agency MTI reported. A dramatic police chase was preceded by what appeared a routine check. Traffic policemen stopped Henrik Toth, 29, driving a heavy-duty trailer truck, on suspicion that he was drunk. Following a positive breathalyzer test, Toth was taken to a police station, where a surgeon took a blood test, which later was said to have shown a 1.9 per thousand alcohol content. Driving under any influence of alcohol is prohibited in Hungary. In order to forestall an escape, police had locked the truck. But all of a sudden, Toth bolted from the station, leaving his identity card and papers behind. Police soon afterward found that the truck was also missing. The driver had apparently opened it with a spare key.

West Berlin's panda dies

WEST BERLIN (R) — West Berlin Zoo's female panda Tian-Tian, a favourite of the city's animal lovers, died Wednesday, despite round-the-clock efforts to save her, the zoo said. Five-year-old Tian-Tian — the name means little heaven — was being treated for a viral intestinal infection at the city's University Animal Clinic by a team of six veterinarians. She was under a permanent anaesthetic and had been given blood transfusions, artificial feeding and antibiotics. The cause of death was not immediately announced. West Berliners demonstrated intense concern for the animal, one of the few pandas in Western zoos, and the zoo and newspapers and radio stations received hundreds of telephone calls.

First cruise missile parts in Sicily

COMISO, Sicily (R) — The first cruise missile parts have arrived at Comiso in a military convoy that travelled overland from Sigonella in eastern Sicily, an Italian newspaper reported Wednesday.

The components were carried in camouflaged lorries escorted by military and police vehicles last Saturday night, according to a front-page report in the Milan daily Il Giornale.

Comiso townhall sources, confirming the report, said police had sealed off the roads surrounding Magliocco Airbase at Comiso during the operation, and workmen inside the base had noticed additional security measures since the weekend.

The town's Socialist mayor, Salvatore Catalano, said the town council intended to ask the government in Rome for further cla-

rification and guarantees "in view of the extreme risks now faced by the local population."

CUDIP, a Communist-backed committee which opposes the deployment of cruise missiles, said in a statement: "The peace movement will not be cowed by any shifty operation, such as the transfer of the missiles to Comiso one month earlier than necessary."

Kissinger urges adoption of Central America plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told Congress Tuesday that failure to adopt a bipartisan presidential commission's proposals for pumping billions in economic and military aid to Central America could "cost our nation dearly."

Defending the commission's report before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which helps formulate U.S. policy, Mr. Kissinger said it was important to look at the broad proposals as a package. "We must do it all or not any of it," said Mr. Kissinger who chaired the bipartisan commission.

The panel's report, submitted to President Ronald Reagan in mid-January, called for a broad-based political, economic and social reforms in the region, backed by a five-year \$8 billion economic aid programme tied to increased military assistance.

Mr. Kissinger told the senators that the United States has "fundamental interests, including national security interests, at stake in Central America."

He noted that the area is plagued by social injustice, political turmoil and severe economic woes, but he said the region's "predicament has been brought to a head by the confluence of Soviet-Cuban intervention and international economic recession."

Mr. Kissinger said the cornerstone of the commission's programme has as its goal the democratisation of all the nations of Central America.

In order to help achieve this, he said, the commission also proposed a series of measures to support agriculture development, small businesses and extensive proposals to support basic education, better health and housing.

Kampuchean rebels report killing 13 government troops

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas said Wednesday they had attacked the strategic central Kampuchean town of Kampong Thom, killed 13 Vietnamese troops and destroyed an oil storage dump.

Last Friday's attack was the second reported against the town since guerrillas claimed to have occupied it briefly on Jan. 19.

A Khmer Rouge broadcast monitored in Bangkok said in the

latest raid, guerrillas hit the town's central market and a Vietnamese general staff headquarters, killing a lieutenant colonel and 12 other troops.

Vietnam invaded Kampuchea five years ago, removed the Khmer Rouge from power and installed a government, under Heng Samrin. But guerrilla resistance groups, including the Khmer Rouge, have since waged a hit-and-run war.

Guatemala invites U.N. observers for elections

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — The military government of Guatemala said Tuesday it wants the United Nations and other international organisations to observe elections planned for July 1.

In announcing the invitation to the United Nations, Foreign Minister Rolando Andrade said the government plans to guarantee "an electoral process that is truly open."

He said: "there will be no official candidates and there will be no parties supported by the government" in the upcoming elections.

The government of Chief of State Gen. Oscar Humberto Mejido Victores has said the July elections for a constitution — writing assembly are a prelude to democracy in Guatemala, which has been ruled since 1954.

Progress seen towards banning chemical weapons

BONN (R) — The conference on disarmament which resumed in Geneva Tuesday, made unexpected progress in its last session on a ban on chemical weapons and will seek to draw up a draft convention this year, a senior diplomat said Wednesday.

Canadian Ambassador Donald McPhail, who served as chairman of the working group on chemical weapons until this week, told Reuters in an interview that "a consensus document with all the elements needed for a convention" had been worked out.

"The working group succeeded in moving the negotiations forward to a degree which had not been anticipated," he said.

Mr. McPhail, Canada's chief delegate to the 40-nation talks for four years, became ambassador to Bonn five months ago. He chaired his last meeting of the 1983 working group on Monday.

It agreed to recommend to the full conference on Thursday that the group move quickly in the new

round to "start the full and complete process of negotiations, developing and working out the convention, except for its final drafting."

"The cataloguing of the elements was a pre-negotiating necessity, and it's now behind us," Mr. McPhail said.

The ambassador said he was much more optimistic than when the session began eight months ago, and added that the chemical weapons talks now had a momentum they did not have before.

The multilateral disarmament talks, which began in 1978, include the world's five nuclear powers — the U.S., Soviet Union, Britain, France and China — plus allies of Moscow and Washington and a score of non-aligned countries.

Besides chemical weapons, their agenda includes prevention of nuclear war, a nuclear test ban treaty, the banning of radiological weapons and prevention of an arms race in space.

Soviet Union, U. States clash over disarmament

GENEVA (AP) — The Soviet Union charged Tuesday that the United States, after the collapse of bilateral missile talks here last fall, is aiming at a break-off of international disarmament negotiations as well to secure military superiority.

In a sweeping attack, promptly rejected by the U.S. chief delegate as "distorting history," Soviet Ambassador Victor Israelyan denounced U.S. President Ronald Reagan's recent call for a U.S.-Soviet dialogue as a "demagogic trick aimed at misleading world public opinion" about the true American objectives. Any attempt to speak with the Soviet Union from a position of strength was "absolutely prospectless," he said.

Mr. Israelyan was addressing this year's first session of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, the world's principal forum for multilateral arms control negotiations.

He charged that the world sit-

uation had worsened chiefly because the United States, "by trampling the will of peoples, is seeking to transform the whole globe into the sphere of its vital interests."

U.S. ambassador Louis Fields termed the statement a "landmark in personal attacks," particularly against Mr. Reagan. He said it "distorted history well known to all here."

In a brief but sharp retort, Mr. Fields said the U.S. delegation at the conference would meet "slender with seriousness, distortion with truth, hypocrisy with accuracy and polemics with progress."

Mr. Israelyan blamed American "obstruction" for the five-year impasse in the Geneva conference's negotiations on multilateral arms issues, ranging from a proposed ban on all nuclear arms testing to a convention prohibiting the production of chemical weapons.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Eversman

URBANITIES

By Richard Mera

ACROSS

- 1 Ladies in waiting
- 2 Frequenter
- 3 Pathological
- 4 Bean bag
- 5 — in the right
- 6 Lower the value of
- 7 First name
- 8 — Jims
- 9 Shirts' kind
- 10 Down
- 11 Town King Kong
- 12 Pl. Indian
- 13 Water barrier
- 14 Lachrymose
- 15 Knobs
- 16 Run — of the law

DOWN

- 1 Sheriff
- 2 Nelson Arthur
- 3 Thing
- 4 Fresh quality
- 5 Ooble
- 6 Throry
- 7 Confuse
- 8 Grange Sp.
- 9 Grapes
- 10 Fr. month
- 11 Lawyer abbr.
- 12 Plot
- 13 Death note
- 14 Margaret
- 15 — cat
- 16 Hopah and whist
- 17 Little heater
- 18 Those who accomplish
- 19 "Year" motion
- 20 Prize

Diagrams

19 X 19, by Lara Alexandra

- 1 Metal refuse
- 2 Lure: abbr.
- 3 Nick's wife
- 4 Grub
- 5 Geometric
- 6 Wheel holder
- 7 The testator
- 8 Speechmaking
- 9 Heroic or
- 10 Fervor
- 11 Faithful
- 12 Steep

DOWN

- 1 Atonize
- 2 Kinman's abbr.
- 3 A Gubhe
- 4 Ewale
- 5 Kind of wool
- 6 Soler
- 7 Sweet potato
- 8 Pacific island group
- 9 Keep out
- 10 Bunkie
- 11 Place of sacrifice
- 12 Porcine

ACROSS

- 1 Young chap
- 2 E. Ind. sailor
- 3 Manager
- 4 Revisor
- 5 Cravat
- 6 A miss
- 7 Or. letter
- 8 Person on a special
- 9 Mission
- 10 Uncanny
- 11 Multified
- 12 Muhammad —
- 13 Unit of work

DOWN

- 1 Carross
- 2 Circuits
- 3 around a track
- 4 Gubhe
- 5 People outside of the clergy
- 6 Tumbler
- 7 Comparison word
- 8 Like a bump on —
- 9 Mena —
- 10 Nagaswini
- 11 Drang
- 12 Twit
- 13 — of Troy

ACROSS

- 1 Meeting
- 2 Splitting
- 3 Sander
- 4 Give a claim to
- 5 — slipper
- 6 Turkish
- 7 Before
- 8 Beauty prior
- 9 Mean
- 10 Married
- 11 Confound
- 12 Shaving equipment

DOWN

- 1 "I — Camera"
- 2 More uncommon
- 3 Singer Bobby
- 4 Sun
- 5 Early
- 6 K-P connection
- 7 USSR sea
- 8 Scrupulous
- 9 Nothing more than
- 10 Respective
- 11 Crook
- 12 Folding bed
- 13 Govt. agency

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